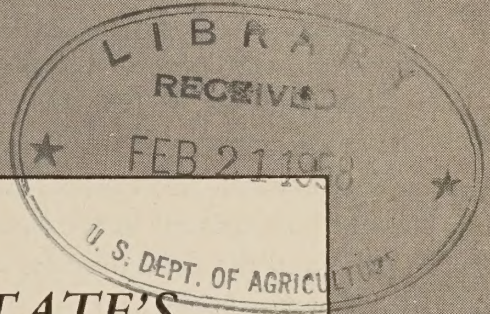


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NEW YORK STATE'S  
CONTRIBUTION TO  
THE ORGANIZATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF THE  
**COUNTY AGENT-  
FARM BUREAU  
MOVEMENT**

L. R. SIMONS

## Foreword

The author of this publication has been a county agricultural agent, organization specialist in the Federal Extension office, assistant state leader, state leader of county agricultural agents, and State Extension Director. He participated in all phases of these early events. Only a few remain who observed and participated in this remarkable world reaching development. It is fitting then that Lloyd R. Simons should be asked to record these events for permanent reference, recalling particularly those farmers and professional agriculturists of New York State who directed and participated in the building of cooperative extension work in agriculture and the farm bureau.

Several books and other printed publications have been written about the origin and development of the county agent-farm bureau movement in this country. Many of these authors were not associated with nor did they participate in the early events that led to the formation of the whole structure on all levels—county, state and nation. For this reason these developments and certain specific events have never been adequately covered in those publications.

This treatise describes only that portion dealing with New York's contribution to the formation and development of the county agent-farm bureau movement. It mentions policies, programs and techniques only in passing. Others have written about various phases of county agent-farm bureau work.

The development of home demonstration work and 4-H club work, of equal importance to that of the county agricultural agent, has not been touched upon. Likewise, not enough has been written about the adaptability of the Cooperative Extension Service to emergencies such as war, flood, wind, fire and drought. Many remarkable experiences in these fields by the Extension Service should be described and made more generally available.

Appreciation of this carefully prepared record of events, developments and relationship will grow with time.

A better understanding of needs of farmers and of the view of leaders of how to meet some of these needs during and following the period of World War I may be gained from this record. Past experience provides useful background information for the development of more effective extension programs in the future and for developing and maintaining relationships with farm and other organizations.

M. C. Bond  
Director of Extension

# New York State's Contribution to the Organization and Development of the County Agent-Farm Bureau Movement

L. R. SIMONS

Perhaps the most unique method of educational development was the teaching of agriculture through demonstrations designed to control the cotton boll weevil in Southern United States. It developed out of necessity. The problem of saving the cotton crop, at first, was confined to Texas, but the situation presented a world-wide problem. Out of all the thinking of the experts, there seemed to be only one solution—diversified farming.

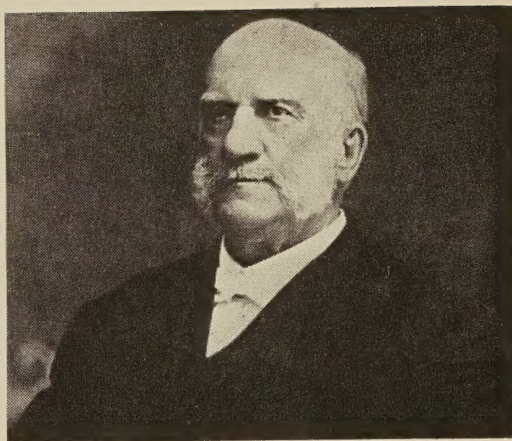
The greatest teacher of this new idea was Seaman A. Knapp. He was an original thinker with a true missionary spirit of service. His thinking went far beyond the demonstration idea merely as a means to save agriculture in the southern states. He looked upon it as a great ideal—the enrichment of country life.

Although Dr. Knapp had led a useful life, principally in the teaching profession, including the presidency of the Iowa State College of Agriculture at Ames, it was not until his supposed retirement from professional teaching that he initiated the plan which was to be of such great significance and help to the world. He became the father of the present Cooperative Extension Service combining the extension interests of the Land Grant Colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture.

While President of Iowa Agricultural College, he said, "Is it not true that the easy thing for us to do is to learn general principles and theories, and the difficult part is to successfully apply them? The ten commandments are soon acquired, but it takes man's highest powers to practically apply them to the problems of life and mould a character of conformity with them. The pages of books are ink extracts from other people's lives; nature compels us to live our own lives."

*Acknowledgement.* In order to refresh and enlarge upon his own recollection and personal records, the author has studied many other publications and letters written by his friends and former associates, particularly L. H. Bailey, M. C. Burritt, H. E. Babcock, A. C. True, C. B. Smith, W. A. Lloyd and O. B. Martin.

Seaman A. Knapp was born in Schroon, Essex County, New York on December 16, 1833, and was graduated from Union College, Schenectady, New York in 1856. Officially the Farmers' Cooperative Demonstration Work designed to bring about better farming in the South began in 1903. Thus, Dr. Knapp was 70 years old before he started on his really great adventure in life.



### The Birth of The County Agent System

The demonstration plan to control the cotton boll weevil through the diversification of crops was initiated in 1903 on the farm of Walter C. Porter, Terrell, Texas. The demonstration was a success. Other farm demonstrators volunteered, and soon the plan spread to other counties in Texas and to other states. Trained men to supervise the work were needed, and five were employed on a district or area basis. One of these men was James A. Evans, who afterward headed the Southern branch of the States Relations Service. He succeeded Bradford Knapp, son of the founder, on January 25, 1920. The writer, as a staff member in the Northern Branch, was well acquainted with both.

Dr. Knapp soon realized that the county was the best local unit to secure the best results. The first county agent in the United States, W. C. Stallings, started work in Smith County, Texas, November 12, 1906. This was the beginning of the county agent movement in the South and later in the North in 1911.

Professor Richard Weeks of Union College stated in 1952 at a convocation honoring Dr. Knapp:

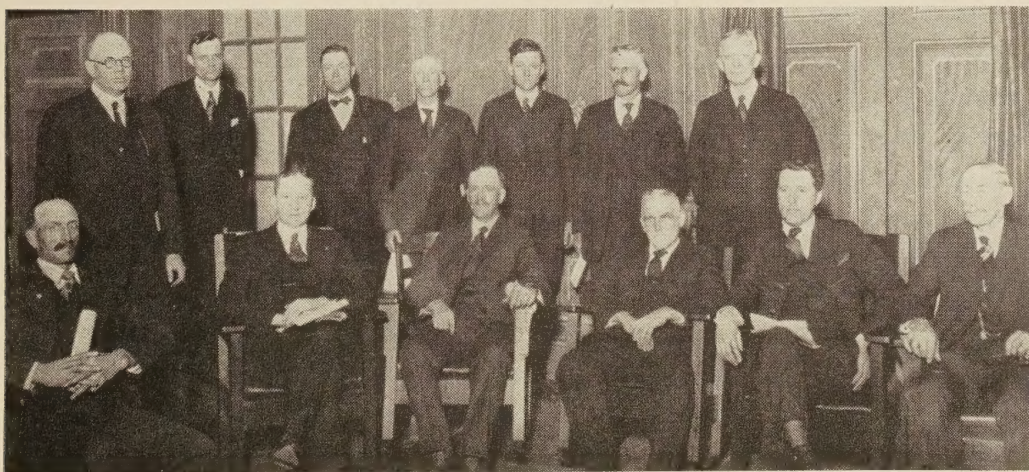
*It was after years of teaching, preaching and instructing at institutions, that Knapp made his basic observation: "What a man hears, he may doubt; what he sees, he may possibly doubt, but what he does himself, he cannot doubt." It was when he applied his vast knowledge of agriculture and his wide experience with human beings on a personal level, that he attained the results that had eluded him, along with other reformers of agriculture for half a century. It was when he realized as he expressed it, that "Your value lies not in what you can do but in what you can get other people to do" that he gave impetus to an agrarian reform that secured and established the economy of the South so successfully that the movement spread over the entire country.*

The county agent movement in the South was started and developed primarily as an enterprise to control the ravages of the cotton boll weevil through the efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture working in cooperation with individual farm demonstrators.

In the North, the purposes were less specific, but here too, the need for educational work on a local basis was great. However, the problems varied in different sections of the North and West. Early county agent work in the North was conducted much as in the South, through practical field demonstrations on the individual farms. Unlike the South, the movement in the North with its multiplicity of problems to be solved, needed the backing of organized farmers to take it out of the hands of well-intentioned dominant business interests, to serve the interests of farmers, and to secure local public financial aid.

### The First Farm Bureau

The early interest and support of business leaders in New York State should not be overlooked or minimized, particularly in the City of Binghamton, Broome County, where in 1910 Byers H. Gitchell, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, proposed a farm department or bureau in the Chamber of Commerce to "extend to farmers the same opportunities for cooperation now enjoyed by the business men of this city."



Members of the first Farm Bureau in the United States, the Broome County Farm Improvement Association, shown with other participants in a pageant in 1921 celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the organization.

*Standing, left to right:* Charles More; J. F. Eastman, second county agent; Hugh Failey; Robert Eggleston; William Golden; G. W. Young, Richard Osray.

*Seated:* W. E. Adams; John Dugan; A. A. Walling; Levi English; M. C. Burritt, Director of Extension; and James Quinn.

The Chamber appointed a committee on agriculture and a tour was arranged of Broome and contiguous counties. Participating in this tour that was to mean so much to American agriculture, were members of the Chamber, representatives of the New York State College of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the New York State Department of Agriculture.

The Committee learned many useful things from this tour. The experts pointed out certain deficiencies in methods on many farms that prevented the farmers from attaining the fullest possible measure of success. Other farms were visited where work was being done in a way worthy of imitation by others.

The committee was convinced that all farmers should be offered the opportunities presented through modern science and practical agriculture. The facts discovered by the scientists at the experiment stations and those obtained through demonstrations on the farms of leading farmers were available, but there was no practical method to enable all farmers to learn about these new discoveries or how to apply them.

United States Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, and his associates, and members of President Theodore Roosevelt's Country Life Commission, under the chairmanship of Liberty Hyde Bailey of the New York State College of Agriculture, were concerned about the large number of abandoned farms on the hills of southern New York. They had visited and inspected the area. The Commission's report, which was published at that particular time, contained facts and figures bearing on that situation.

These developments strengthened the belief of the Chamber of Commerce Committee that no urban community depending on the trade of the rural territory surrounding it can long be prosperous unless the region that feeds it is also prosperous. They realized likewise that no nation can continue to prosper, unless agriculture thrives.

George A. Cullen, then traffic manager of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, became interested in the problem. His railroad ran through this territory and, no doubt, he was concerned about the freight traffic involved. He went to Ithaca and to Washington to talk with experts at the College and in the United States Department of Agriculture. The proposal he carried from the Chamber of Commerce and the Railroad was the establishment of a demonstration farm somewhere in the area.

Apparently this plan did not strike a responsive chord in Ithaca or in Washington. An alternative plan was presented by W. J. Spillman, then in charge of farm management in the Department. He said a plan had been tried out with great success in the South. Under this plan a trained man was located in each district or county to visit the farmers, find out

what the successful farmers were doing, and by means of demonstrations encourage others to follow their example.

This idea appealed to Mr. Cul-  
len and the Chamber of Com-  
merce Committee. While it is un-  
likely they foresaw what it was to  
mean to agriculture in America in  
the future, they could see some of  
the possibilities locally. They de-  
cided to adapt the southern plan to  
the situation in Broome County.  
Thus was born the county agent  
movement in the North and West  
—the forerunner of the Farm  
Bureau.

In the growth of the county  
agent and Farm Bureau move-  
ment in the North and West, there  
have been four distinct steps; (1) the employment of county agents by gov-  
ernment; (2) the organization of County Farm Bureaus to cooperate in  
the support and management of the county agents' work; (3) the federa-  
tion of these County Farm Bureaus into State organizations to correlate,  
strengthen, and promote the work of the County Farm Bureaus; and (4)  
the federation of these state organizations into a national body to develop  
a national agricultural policy and to carry forward a program based on  
that policy.

In New York State, the leaders of farm organizations and the adminis-  
trators of the College of Agriculture took an active part in all four of these  
important steps in the northern and western states.

### **The County Agent**

The cooperating parties in Broome County were the Binghamton  
Chamber of Commerce, the D. L. & W. Railroad, the United States De-  
partment of Agriculture and the New York State College of Agriculture.  
The College, without funds for this purpose, gave advice and encourage-  
ment. Later, as agent for both the State and Federal governments, the  
College was able to furnish financial support here and in other counties  
as they joined the movement. Gradually, private funds were replaced  
largely by public funds—Federal, State and finally county appropriations  
by the boards of supervisors.

## **TO THE FARMER**

The Lackawanna Railroad and the Bingham-  
ton Chamber of Commerce, in co-operation with  
the United States Department of Agriculture  
and the New York State College of Agriculture  
have established a Farm Bureau in Binghamton.

An expert agriculturist has been employed,  
whose services you may have free of charge.

Where you have questions of farm manage-  
ment, soil fertility, dairy production, plant  
diseases and insect infestation and other ques-  
tions pertaining to farming, you are invited to  
consult him.

His services are also available for addressing  
farm gatherings and granges, helping to interest  
school children in agriculture, initiating farm  
clubs and carrying on experimental and demon-  
strational work.

For further information, address

**JOHN H. BARRON, Agent,**  
Farm Bureau,  
Binghamton, N. Y.

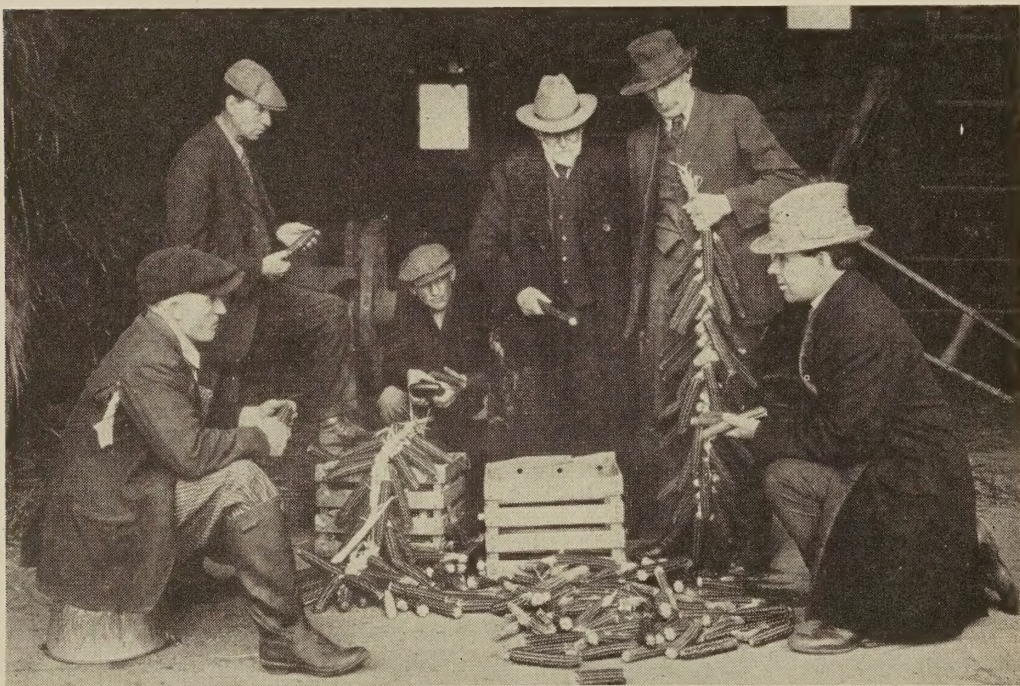


John Barron, *right*, first Agricultural Agent in Broome County, and James Quinn, *left*, the first president of the Broome County Farm Bureau.

John H. Barron, a graduate of the State College of Agriculture, farm reared, a member of the Grange, and of a practical turn of mind, was employed as the first county agent on March 20, 1911. He was provided with an office in the "Farm Bureau Department" of the Chamber of Commerce and a horse and buggy with which to travel out and visit the farmers. Soon thereafter, a "flivver" donated by a commercial concern replaced the horse and buggy.

A good constitution, a strong heart and much determination was needed to meet and overcome the many obstacles encountered by

Mr. Barron. The most important part of his work was through demonstrations, the first of which were in the use of lime for pasture improvements. Some of the earliest of these demonstrations were on the Levi English hill farm, on the Corbett farm in Corbettville and on Deyo Hill.



The barn floor provided a good place for a demonstration on germination of seed corn for John Barron, the new Agricultural Agent.

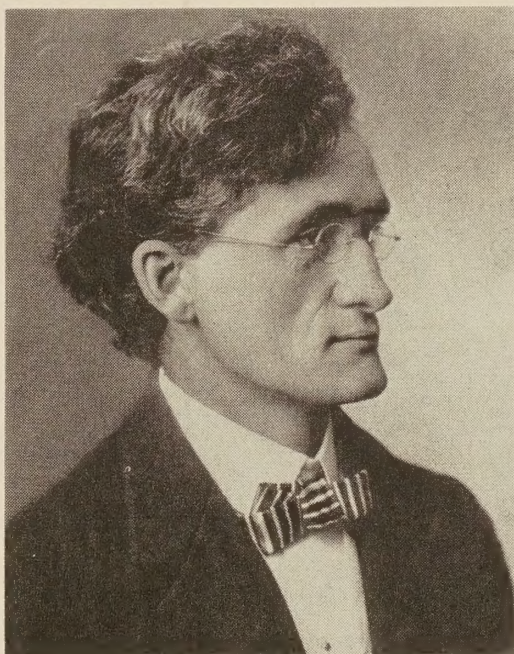
At this point, the moral support afforded by the Grange, then the only Statewide agricultural organization, should be mentioned and commended. The understanding Grange leaders recognized that their organization was not constructed or equipped to carry on an educational program for farm people in cooperation with public agencies. When the new organization was formed later in Broome County, the County Grange Master, James Quinn, became its first president.

Had not John Barron been farm reared and an active member of the Grange, he no doubt would have failed. Farmers considered the new movement a city-sponsored plan for its own gain and not in the best interests of the farmer.

### The County Organization

The College, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Broome County agent and the most successful farm leaders of the county realized that unless the farmers themselves took an active hand in the determination of policies and programs and in the administration of the work, the whole plan would have to be abandoned. So in 1913, in Broome County, the Broome County Farm Improvement Association (later called the Broome County Farm Bureau Association) was organized with a farmer membership and with farmer officers and committeemen. Thus a partnership between the farmers and the College of Agriculture, as agent for the State and Federal governments, was formed. This partnership, here and elsewhere, endured and grew stronger over the years. The name of the supporting organizations have been changed to fit the changing conditions, but the fundamental idea of a partnership between science and practice has held firm and undoubtedly will be maintained always.

Since many of the early Extension activities in New York State had been conceived and promoted by Liberty Hyde Bailey, he was very much concerned about plans to stabilize these activities. He was anxious to make scientific and practical farmer experience more readily available to farmers and their families. The county agent-Farm Bureau movement, although



Liberty Hyde Bailey

launched during the latter part of his term as Dean of the College of Agriculture, gave promise of accomplishing this through the establishment of extension work on a permanent local basis. Dean Bailey was keenly interested in this, and not only gave his blessing to the county agent-Farm Bureau movement, but gave it much thought, and with his keen foresight and sound philosophy, helped greatly in guiding it through its formative period.

Like Seaman A. Knapp, he believed in teaching people to help themselves and in developing local leadership. Like Dr. Knapp, he thought of Extension work as much broader than just helping to improve farming. In connection with one of the early forms of Extension work, Dean Bailey said, "My own work in nature study centers chiefly about its value as a means of country living."

Fearful of domination by outside interests and by ambitious people who might wish to hasten the county agent-Farm Bureau movement for personal gain, Dr. Bailey said:

I would not have the Farm Bureau movement extend more rapidly than the good farmers themselves want it and are willing to use it. It will not only fail of its greatest application if it is premature, but I am afraid that the tendency will be to lessen the initiative and responsibility of the farming community, if the enterprise is projected from the outside or from a more or less benevolent source. I have not been particularly anxious to see it pushed. I should rather see it grow.

Having followed the formation and development of many organizations and watched ambitious persons try to keep them alive after their usefulness had ceased, he expressed the hope that this would not happen to the new extension movement. He said, "Whenever a piece of work comes to the point where maintenance of the organization is the principle aim, it begins then to lose its direction."

After a half century of performance, the county agent enterprise continues to demonstrate its usefulness. However, Dr. Bailey's admonition continues to live in the minds of its leaders. Perhaps this has helped maintain the energy and vigilance needed to keep the program up-to-date and growing in importance.

### **The State Federation**

With the passage of the Federal Smith-Lever Act on May 9, 1914, authorizing appropriations of Federal funds, and the enactment of similar acts in the several states authorizing appropriations on both State and county levels, Farm Bureaus were organized rapidly in New York counties and in most of the Northern and Western states. County Extension agents were employed in all states, but the South continued without supporting membership organizations such as the Farm Bureau. In 1916, ap-

proximately one-third of the counties in the United States had county agents and about one-half of these had cooperating organizations of farmers.

It is not surprising, in fact it was inevitable, based on the performance of other organizations, that State Federations of these county organizations would be needed and formed.

With the rapid increase in the number of county agents in the several states, State Leaders were needed and appointed to supervise their work. Like the agents, they were joint employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State college. In New York State, Lloyd S. Tenney became the first State Leader on March 1, 1913. He was succeeded by M. C. Burritt on January 1, 1914.

The state leaders in the colleges discussed the matter of State Farm Bureau organizations at interstate conferences. Farm leaders were brought together through correspondence or informal conferences, both in the State and regionally, to consider future action.

Missouri was the first to form a state organization in March 1915, followed closely by Massachusetts and Illinois. On February 14, 1917, the New York State Federation of County Farm Bureau Associations was formed. At that time there were 37 County Farm Bureaus in the State, with a total membership of less than 15,000. Late in 1918, ten states had



An early Farm Bureau exhibit at the State Fair; H. E. Babcock, *left*, and M. C. Burritt, *right*.

federations of County Farm Bureau units. At the close of 1918, there were 55 County Farm Bureaus in New York State, with a total membership of 45,000.

### **The New York Federation**

As in the other states, the New York Federation was not formed without a long series of discussions and conferences. Finally on February 14, 1917, M. C. Burritt, State Leader of County Agents and State Director of Farm Bureaus, called a conference of Farm Bureau presidents to meet in Ithaca during the annual Farmers Week to discuss the prospects for a state federation. That historic meeting was held in the forestry building. Mr. Burritt presided. The Federation was organized by voluntary action of the representatives of 34 of the 37 County Farm Bureau Associations.

The purposes of the Federation were many, but the primary purposes were to promote, protect and unify the work of the county units; to give them State-wide representation; and to speak for them on State-wide issues. It was believed also that through association with one another on a State-wide basis, representatives of the counties could profit by an exchange of experiences out of which would come suggestions for local application.

While the chief object of the College staff, particularly that of Mr. Burritt and his assistant, H. E. Babcock, was to have the State Federation stimulate and coordinate the educational programs of the County Farm Bureau Associations, there can be no doubt that some of the farmer leaders had hopes of a broader plan than this. Not only were there common problems of finances, membership, methods and results, but also legislation.

History shows that while in New York the educational phases predominated over the years, some legislative work of the non-partisan variety has been undertaken and successfully accomplished which benefits not only farmers, but the entire rural population and, for the most part, the urban population as well.

The first officers of the New York State Federation of County Farm Bureau Associations were S. L. Strivings of Castile, Wyoming County, president; D. V. Farley of Campbell Hall, Orange County, first vice president; W. H. Depew of Auburn, Cayuga County, second vice president; and H. C. McKenzie of Walton, Delaware County, treasurer. Frank Smith of Springfield Center, Otsego County, was chairman of the committee on organization. Mr. Strivings was an active Granger and at one time Master of the State Grange.



Officers of the State Federation of Farm Bureaus in 1919

*Standing, left to right:* H. E. Babcock, Secretary; H. R. Talmadge; F. M. Smith; M. C. Burritt; Charles G. Porter.

*Seated:* H. C. McKenzie, Treasurer; D. V. Farley, First Vice-president; S. L. Strivings, President; Fred Porter, Second Vice-president.

*Not shown:* H. S. Fullagar

Strangely enough, wide mention of the new organization was not made in the agricultural press. Brief descriptions were given in some counties in their Farm Bureau publications, but nothing like such an event should have warranted. Perhaps it was because other events considered more important were given priority. The United States was on the brink of war.

Perhaps these difficult times and, no doubt, the new Federation caused a rapid expansion of County Farm Bureaus for, as has been stated, the number of County Farm Bureaus in New York jumped from 37 in February 1917 to 55 in less than two years, and the membership rose from 15,000 to 45,000.

In 1918, the same officers were in charge. H. E. Babcock, now State Leader of County Agents and State Director of Farm Bureaus, was added as secretary and M. C. Burritt, who had been promoted to Vice-director of Extension, as a member, ex-officio, of the executive committee.



The Annual Extension Conference, 1917. Those in the picture are identified from left to right by name and the county or office they represent as follows:

*Top row:* Hawley Rogers, Chautauqua; Jack Curtis, Westchester; M. E. Chubbuck, Chemung; L. A. Toan, Monroe; W. C. Markham, Erie; M. C. Burritt, Director of Extension; G. P. Scoville, Chemung; Harry Morse, Ass't., Oneida; C. P. Clark, Cornell Univ.; F. H. Forristall, Cortland.

*Second row:* L. R. Simons, U.S. Dept. of Agr.; Chester Austin, Franklin; O. F. Ross, Oneida; F. E. Robertson, Jefferson; A. S. Merchant, Montgomery; Director W. D. Hurd, Massachusetts; E. P. Smith, Chenango; H. K. Crofoot, Cattaraugus; E. N. Cleaves, Warren; V. B. Blatchley, Tompkins.

*Third row:* F. H. Lacey, Dutchess; E. R. Minns, Broome; C. B. Tillson, Clinton; A. M. Hollister, Saratoga; H. E. Babcock, Ass't. State Leader; W. H. Hook, Ulster; F. C. Smith, Allegany; C. A. Taylor, Herkimer; C. S. Phelps, St. Lawrence.

*Bottom row:* Sarah Pettit, Home Demonstration Agent, Erie; Floyd Barlow, Otsego; J. A. Richardson, Sullivan; Truman Avery, Nassau; E. N. Anderson, Niagara; E. V. Underwood, Oswego; J. R. Teall, Cayuga; T. E. Milliman, Orange; H. M. Bowen, Wyoming.

## **The Farm Bureau Pioneers**

Far too little mention has been made of the outstanding contributions made to the development of county agent and Farm Bureau work in this State by M. C. Burritt and H. E. Babcock. As a well-matched team they combined the scholarly, serious-minded, dignified qualities of Mr. Burritt with the creative imagination and earnestness of Mr. Babcock. Both were hard workers. They expected their associates to think clearly and to work hard, but they drove themselves more severely than any who worked for them.

In those formative days, a State Leader faced problems which were not any more numerous than those of today, but perhaps a little more difficult to overcome. Like the county agents, they were pioneers without any previous experiences or rules to guide them. They were on the road almost constantly, stimulating new counties to organize, urging county boards of supervisors to appropriate funds, orienting new agents in their counties, and serving as energizers generally.

Above all, they were constantly reminding their co-workers and the public that the chief function of county agent and farm bureau work was the development of leadership—especially farmer leadership. They were guided in this and other fundamental principles by the teachings of that great man, Liberty Hyde Bailey.

It has been said and repeated many times that the firm foundation of county agent and Farm Bureau work in New York State was established and the structure well-begun by Burritt and Babcock, and that the structure has been broadened and perfected by their successors, of which the writer is proud to be one.

## **The Nassau County Agent**

The skill of the team of Burritt and Babcock was recognized outside of New York State, and the things they accomplished were copied. Their advice was sought by county agent leaders and directors of Extension in the Washington office and in many states. It was natural then that those in Washington, in seeking aid to expand county agent and Farm Bureau work in the North and West, should turn to New York State. They sought a young man, trained under Burritt and Babcock, who had firsthand knowledge of county agent work and particularly of Farm Bureau organization work. W. A. Lloyd, in charge of county agent work in the Northern office of the States Relations Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited a few of the county agents in New York State. One of these was the writer, who had organized a Farm Bureau Association in Nassau



The first Board of Directors of the Nassau County Farm Bureau, with the author, the agricultural agent.

*Left to right:* Lott Van De Water, Jr.; G. Thomas Powell; L. R. Simons, Agent; George M. Hewlett; Julien K. Ripley; Ellwood V. Titus.

*On running board:* Henry Underhill; Oscar Maddaus, General Secretary; Charles Heckler.

County, Long Island, under peculiar and somewhat difficult circumstances. Many of the farmers there were not well acquainted with the work of the College of Agriculture. Their problems were much different from those Upstate and they had not been dealt with as thoroughly by the College. A succession of nationalities inhabited the farms; first, Quakers, then Irish, German, and Polish.

It was a challenging situation the young county agent faced, and not a very encouraging one. He was favored with an executive committee made up of far-sighted practical farmers, one or two prominent businessmen and a millionaire who was respected not only by the many large estate owners but also by the farmers.

With much perseverance, much encouragement by his employers both in the county and at the College in Ithaca, and with some ingenuity, the county agent organized and developed a strong Association with a program based on the peculiar problems of the island.

Perhaps the thing which attracted Mr. Lloyd's attention and later resulted in an invitation to the agent to join the Washington staff was the type of committee system used. Apparently this system which seemed to be successful, had not been tried elsewhere, at least in the county agent-Farm Bureau system. It was based on the selection of men best suited to particular parts of the program. For example, the members of each community committee were not selected until a small group of farmers had studied their local agricultural problems and decided on a program of work. Each of the 5 to 7 members of the committee was then chosen to lead a specific project such as good seed and better fertility for the potato crop; disease and insect control; marketing. The community chairman was in charge of organization. These community project leaders were brought together in county project committees, usually headed by an executive committeeman chosen because of specific interest and experience, as well as geographical location.

So, in February 1916, this county agent became a member of Mr. Lloyd's staff in Washington to advise with the others in methods of program making and Farm Bureau organization, as developed in New York State, and particularly in Nassau County. He was given the specific responsibility of dealing with the state leaders in the Northeastern states, where advice on methods of program development and organization was given.

### The War Years

About one year later, the United States had entered World War I. The writer was then given almost complete charge of organization work under the direction of Mr. Lloyd and C. B. Smith, Chief of the Northern and Western office of the States Relations Service.

To ensure an adequate food supply for the armed forces abroad and the entire population at home, the United States government recognized the need for a county agricultural agent and a home demonstration agent in each agricultural county.

Herbert Hoover was appointed Food Administrator and directed the program of procuring an adequate supply of the right kind of nutritious food for use by our allies, our armed forces, and the nation, with great energy and enthusiasm. He learned very soon that there was only one agency then existing that could be utilized in rural areas, principally, but also could be expanded to help in the cities to stimulate the production and consumer use of the right kind of nutritious food. He enlisted the aid of the States Relations Service (now the Cooperative Extension Service)



County Agricultural Agent Section, Federal States Relations Staff, 1918-20

*Left to right:* L. R. Simons; W. A. Lloyd, head; H. W. Hochbaum; H. W. Gilbertson; M. C. Wilson. *In foreground,* T. W. Harvey.

All had been county agents or state leaders before joining the Federal staff except W. A. Lloyd. Simons, Hochbaum, Gilbertson and Wilson had degrees from the N.Y.S. College of Agriculture.

in expanding its field force of county agents and its supporting organization, the Farm Bureau, to serve as the local agency of government.

Large emergency appropriations were made under the authorization of the Emergency Food Production Act of August 14, 1917.

"Food will win the war" was the slogan all over the United States. Millions of able-bodied men had been taken from the fields of agriculture into the armed forces. If Germany was to be outlasted, we and our allies had to be supplied with food produced by American farmers. Such high production could be obtained only through an organization which had the respect and confidence of the farmers as well as the general public. The framework of such an organization, the county agent and the Farm Bureau, was already in existence.

The Food Production Act provided for extending the county agent-Farm Bureau work to each county during the fiscal year 1917-1918.

Pending the time when these national funds would be appropriated and become available, the U.S. Department of Agriculture encouraged some States, including New York, through the state departments of agriculture and the state colleges, to create food councils or commissions to start the food program through emergency county agents, state leaders and specialists. Men and women of some agricultural college staffs were released from their regular duties to work as emergency agents until others could be recruited and financed.

## Two Roads to Follow

As mentioned, the States Relations Service was divided into two offices—one operating out of Washington in the South, and the other in the North and West. As stated, the officials of the latter office were committed to the idea of a local supporting organization—the County Farm Bureau—and had assisted the states in organizing such bureaus in many counties. The Southern branch did not approve of this plan and, therefore, although county agents were employed to help the southern counties, the Farm Bureau movement in the South did not gain momentum until after the organization of the American Farm Bureau Federation in November 1919.

The writer's recollection of the difference of policy in the Northern and the Southern Federal Extension offices in regard to the Farm Bureau as a part of the Extension organization, was dimmed somewhat until the document entitled, "Recollections of Extension History," was read. This was written in 1938 by my friend, J. A. Evans, formerly a member of the Southern office staff, and published by the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service where he was employed. One would gather from this document that the Northern and Southern offices were feuding over the proposition. Excerpts from Mr. Evans' statement are as follows:

In 1917, the office of Extension North and West, published an Extension bulletin to promote Farm Bureaus and undertook to standardize the function of such organizations as a public body, and part of the extension organization. . . . . The Southern office did not believe in the Farm Bureau plan of county support for Extension work. We believed that county agents must be public servants and that to really function as such they must be supported by public funds.

In theory the Farm Bureau County Agent was a public servant, but in practice, at least in the early years, it did not always work out that way. The State extension directors in some states, for some time at least, took the position that the county agents were to serve Bureau members and their families only.

Farm Bureaus had been organized in Georgia, Kentucky, Texas and Alabama but were not officially connected with the demonstration work. The national organization now sought to bring pressure on the Southern offices and state directors to organize in all states and on the Extension Service to do the work. A good deal of friction developed and some confusion, but the Southern directors steadfastly adhered to the policy, which the office of Extension work, South had advocated.

At the Southern Conference in 1920 the directors went strongly on record to the effect that county Extension agents as public servants should be supported from public funds and not by any farm organization. This opposition embittered the Federal Farm Bureau against the Southern office of which I was now chief. Other farm organizations in the North and West criticized

the Extension organization for the tie-up with Farm Bureaus, resulting in an investigation by Congress in 1921. A Memorandum of Understanding regarding the relations of the Farm Bureau to the Extension Service was signed by the President of the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Director of the States Relations Service in August 1921. This and later statements as to relationships by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy of the Land-Grant College Association tended to allay the controversy.

### Emergency Farm Bureaus

The Northern and Western office, in cooperation with the state colleges, proceeded to organize and conduct training schools for State Extension workers and resident teachers, augmented in the larger states by college-trained farmers. Teams of hastily trained staff members of the Washington office, headed by the writer, conducted these training schools with full cooperation of the colleges in a large proportion of the Northern and Western states. Suggested constitutions and by-laws were prepared and accepted by the states and counties.

Following the schools, the states were divided into districts with an organizer in charge of each. In those counties where local funds were not readily available, the agents (men and women) were employed on Federal funds and the County Association was called "Emergency Farm Bureau" or "Emergency Food Bureau". In most cases, the emergency bureaus had no membership fee. As rapidly as local interest developed, the membership fee was instituted and local appropriations secured, the name was changed to County Farm Bureau or County Farm and Home Bureau.

On June 30, 1918, one year after this emergency campaign started, Farm Bureau membership had increased from 193,260 to 290,000 and the number of Farm Bureaus from 516 to 732. Increases continued rapidly during the ensuing formative years.

Thus, out of the travail of war, the county agent system with its supporting organization, the County Farm Bureau, was established on what appeared to be a permanent basis, with the confidence and support of the people of the nation. The county agent system, including county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents and 4-H club agents, has had steady growth to this day. Likewise, the Farm Bureau, now an organization entirely separate from the Extension Service in all but one State, but still maintaining an active interest in and backing extension affairs without any legal tie, has prospered and grown.

## The Growth of State Federations

Along with the large increase in the number of County Farm Bureaus, came a steady increase in the number of state Farm Bureau Federations. The States Relations Service assisted also in this development, chiefly for the purpose of encouraging the limitation of purpose and activity to education and as supporting organizations to the colleges and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Washington office received strong backing and vocal support from the Northeastern states, particularly New York and West Virginia. C. R. Titlow, Director of Agricultural Extension, West Virginia, was president of the Extension section of the American Association of Land-Grant Colleges, and in his dealings with the several state directors, he worked closely on Farm Bureau matters with Vice-Director of Extension, M. C. Burritt of New York. These two men thought alike about the necessity of maintaining the Farm Bureau movement on an educational basis at all levels.

A copy of Director Titlow's letter of December 14, 1918 follows:

### West Virginia University

MORGANTOWN

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
JOHN LEE COULTER, DEAN  
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION DEPARTMENT  
C. R. TITLOW, DIRECTOR  
C. H. HARTLEY, ASSISTANT

"HELP WEST VIRGINIA FEED HERSELF"

FARM DEMONSTRATIONS  
NAT T. FRAME

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
C. H. WINKLER

BOYS' CLUBS  
WM. H. KENDRICK

HOME ECONOMICS  
MARION HEPWORTH

GIRLS' CLUBS  
SADIE R. GUSEMAN

AGRICULTURAL EDITOR  
C. E. STOCKDALE

December 14, 1918

DIRECTOR M. C. BURRITT,  
State Agricultural College,  
Ithaca, New York.

DEAR SIR:—

All extension workers seem to be in agreement that the county advisory committee of farmers, whether called a farm bureau or not, is the most important factor in each county to strengthen the development of agriculture and home economics and to uphold the hands of the extension workers.

Our experience during the past months in West Virginia with the State Federation of Farm Bureaus convinces us that a similar advisory body closely identified with the Agricultural College and the Extension Department is of the greatest service to the work in the State because such a body acts in co-operation with the state officials to strengthen the movement by friendly criticisms and active co-operation from the inside, instead of public condemnation and criticism from the outside.

We have recently viewed with some apprehension the apparently co-ordinated attempts to discredit the Department of Agriculture and its agencies through secret conferences of self-constituted agricultural leaders and violent criticisms through the agricultural press. It would appear that the object of this movement is to destroy rather than to improve existing agencies. We know, however, that in our own state, and we have assurances that the same thing is true in other states, the real body of progressive farmers are in sympathy with the ideals and methods of the Department and would rather prefer to work in co-operation with it to remedy existing evils and so build for a permanent agricultural program in this country rather than to tear to pieces our present system.

These men are identified with the county organizations and do not, as a rule, rush into public print. In many of the states they have already gotten together into State Federations of Farm Bureaus such as we have in West Virginia; if the officers of these state federations could be encouraged to form a national federation which would bear the same relationship to the Department of Agriculture that the county association and the state federation bears to the county agent and to the agricultural colleges respectively it would appear to us to be a real constructive movement.

We are, therefore, giving encouragement to action recently taken by the officers of the West Virginia Federation of Farm Bureaus looking to mutual understanding between these men in the various states who prefer to work constructively on the inside rather than to stand aloof and hammer things from the outside.

At the request of the representatives of the West Virginia Federation of Farm Bureaus in recent conferences assembled, I am enclosing a letter for the president and the secretary of your state federation of farm bureaus or for two farmers closely identified in the support of the extension work in your state who might likely become leaders in such a federation if organized.

If, in your judgment, this is a wise movement, I suggest that you put these letters in the hands of the proper persons and encourage them to be in Baltimore at the time suggested. They would be well repaid by hearing the addresses and discussions in the various meetings going on at that time and under the auspices of the Extension Section of the American Association we could provide a room for an informal meeting where they might get together and discuss tentatively what the farmers who believe in extension work as now organized should do to strengthen and uphold it.

As president of the extension section I am taking the liberty of initiating this movement. I shall be glad to hear from you as to your attitude and the probability of attendance of farmers from your State.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "C. R. Titlow". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

C. R. Titlow

*Director Agr'l Extension*

It is difficult to visualize the reasons for the antagonistic attempts to discredit the U.S. Department of Agriculture through "secret conferences by self-constituted agricultural leaders and violent criticisms through the agricultural press", without having lived through that period.

No doubt, the leaders Director Titlow mentioned were not real farmers but persons in allied industries who believed the farmer cooperatives, which county agents were helping farmers to organize, would drive them out of business.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture did not want to prevent county agents from giving this assistance, because it was believed that in the long run the cooperative movement would stimulate all agencies to provide better animal feed and other supplies at lower costs to farmers, and that only the inefficient dealers would suffer. Time has proven this to be correct. Today little, if any, criticism is evident.

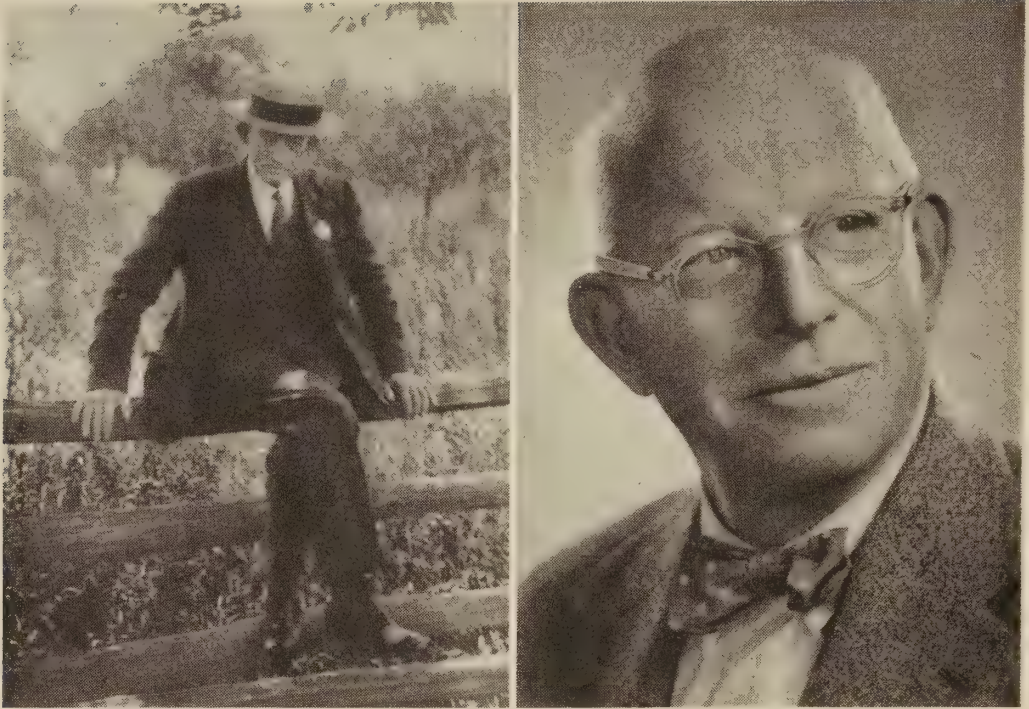
Also, government war regulations may have caused certain businessmen and, no doubt, many farmers to be critical of all Federal departments. As previously mentioned, the military draft was taking thousands of men from the farms. Certain essential farm supplies were curtailed for military reasons. Food rationing, especially of sugar, was in effect. While the Department of Agriculture did not enforce these regulations, its staff, including the county farm and home agents, helped in explaining the regulations and in adjusting food and other needs to better meet the emergency.

As may be seen later in this text, these were factors contributing to the demand of farmers for protection against extreme government regulations and against all manner of things which affected farmer income and farmer welfare. They wanted a strong Nation-wide organization with sufficient finances and personnel to stand up against all sorts of aggression.

Standard Farm Bureau Federation constitutions and by-laws, prepared and recommended by the Washington staff, were adopted with only minor changes in several states. The writer assisted many State Extension Directors and State Leaders in the organization and development of State Federations and attended several of the State organization meetings.

From the very outset of the development of these State Federations there was doubt in the minds of Federal Extension officials that the Farm Bureau movement could long remain on a strictly educational basis. However, it was hoped this might be done in order that continued unqualified support could be given and the mutually helpful cooperative enterprise could continue.

The question might be asked as to the part played by leading farmers in these early developments. Several farm leaders in each state, such as S. L. Strivings, E. V. Titus, and Frank Smith of New York, participated in



E. V. Titus, first President of the Nassau County Farm Bureau, *left*, and Frank M. Smith, *right*, were among the first promoters of the national Farm Bureau. Frank Smith became chairman of the preliminary organization committee of the national Farm Bureau.

these activities. However, in spite of their experience in other farm organizations, particularly the Grange, and in other public enterprises, they leaned heavily on the leadership of the State Directors of Extension and the State Leaders. This was pioneering with untried methods, some of which succeeded and others were tried and abandoned when found wanting.

With these conditions prevailing, it is quite remarkable that the professional leaders in Washington and in the states remained firm in their convictions that the development of farmer leadership, and teaching people to help themselves, were the purposes of county agent and Farm Bureau work. Although professional workers initiated much of the early planning, they were careful to keep the farm leaders well informed and to encourage their active participation in all of the policy and program making, and in the organizational activities.

The views of Liberty Hyde Bailey, as expressed in an address before the Erie County Farm Bureau on March 17, 1914, furnished the basis of the thinking of the professional leadership in Washington and in the Eastern states. These may be summarized as follows:

The people should be responsible for the Farm Bureau. Its most important function is the discovery and stimulation of local leaders. A resident agent in the county is essential to provide useful information and to direct the program toward agricultural progress.

The agent should not be called a farm advisor, but should project sound policies and programs. If he does not know all of the answers, he should bring in specialists and have an office where available facts can be assembled and distributed.

The work must fit local conditions as determined by some kind of a survey. The agent must facilitate buying and selling by aiding the organization and work of cooperatives.

Administration follows funds. If Farm Bureaus become effective, local funds will increase, but there must be supervision.

The Farm Bureau must not be partisan, sectarian or commercial, but must be educational. General oversight should come from an educational institution. Public membership is best. Support by Chambers of Commerce is a passing phase. Financial support locally is desirable, but should be supplemented by county, State and Federal funds.

Thus were expressed the fundamentals of an educational organization designed to benefit not only the members but all citizens in partnership with governmental agencies. It is remarkable that Dr. Bailey could express so clearly, at such an early date, what progressive developments proved to be sound and the guide posts of subsequent policies of the Extension Service.

### The National Organization

With few exceptions, American tradition is that an organization with a successful beginning locally aspires to become statewide in its influence and then national. The Farm Bureau was no exception. State Federations, as coordinating bodies, contributed greatly to County Association progress. They stimulated the thinking of both professional and farmer leadership toward the idea that a national organization of some sort was needed.

The Federal and College Extension leaders had a somewhat different purpose in mind for such a national body than did many of the farm leaders, particularly those in the so-called corn belt states. There, the Grange had not been so strong as in the East, and there was no regional or national organization. So the midwestern farm leaders visualized a strong regional or national organization to truly represent the farmers' interests. The professional Extension leaders did not favor using the educational type County Farm Bureau as a basis for such a purpose.

Talk about a national Farm Bureau started as early as 1915 in a few states, such as Missouri, New York and West Virginia. Later, the idea was

discussed by State and Federal Extension leaders at Land-Grant College and other meetings, but it is believed that the first attempt to start definite action toward the formation of a national Farm Bureau was held in the Raleigh Hotel in Washington, D.C., early in November 1917.

### The First Meeting

A group of County Farm Bureau presidents from New York State, headed by E. V. Titus of Nassau County, came to Washington to advise with government officials regarding war regulations affecting agriculture. The majority of these men came from the vegetable and fruit sections of New York, where the farmers were apprehensive that the draft would take so many essential farm laborers that their crops could not be grown and harvested. The writer was assigned to make appointments and guide these men about Washington. They talked with Food Administrator Herbert Hoover, Secretary of War Newton Baker, Provost Marshal General Crowder in charge of the draft, and Secretary of Agriculture Houston. These conferences were said by a government spokesman to have been most helpful in settling important differences and in developing policies which were of great benefit to agriculture and the nation during the remainder of the war.

At the conclusion of these conferences, four of the New York County Farm Bureau presidents, including Mr. Titus and Charles Porter of Orleans County, remained in Washington to consider the need for a national organization of farmers to deal with the government on matters of agricultural policy. The meeting was held in the Green Room of the Raleigh Hotel. The States Relations Service was represented by the writer and C. B. Smith, Chief of the Northern and Western office. After a long discussion, Mr. Titus said, "What we need is a national Farm Bureau with the State Federations as member units." The writer replied, "Mr. Titus, I believe you are right. That is probably coming next."

One of the Washington daily papers, under the heading "Plan to get Farm Bureaus into one unit—national organization discussed by farmers in conference" reported in part as follows:

A national organization of the Farm Bureaus of the United States will probably result from the conferences held in this city yesterday between delegates from bureaus of New York State, Herbert Hoover, Provost Marshal Crowder, Secretary Baker and Secretary Houston.

As soon as it is organized, the national body will send delegates from every state to confer with government officials in an effort to exempt all farm labor from the draft.

Agricultural experts of the country feel that such a course is absolutely necessary, if the present abnormal food production is to be maintained.

Mr. Porter and the writer were delegated to confer the next day with W. A. Lloyd and other officials in the Department of Agriculture. As a result of these conferences, the following letter was sent to Mr. Titus:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
STATES RELATION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 16, 1917

E. V. TITUS  
Glen Cove, Long Island  
New York

DEAR MR. TITUS:

As promised, Mr. Porter of Orleans County and I had a conference with Mr. Lloyd of our Office, regarding the matter of organizing a National Farm Bureau Association. Mr. Lloyd is agreeable to the plan, providing certain fundamentals are observed. Another conference with Mr. M. C. Burritt of New York further emphasized these fundamentals. They are about as follows.

1. In order to secure the active interest on the part of the officers of the farm bureaus in the various states, the movement should come from some recognized organization or committee. It would seem desirable in the first place to present this matter to the New York Federation of Farm Bureaus with the idea that they may perfect plans for starting the movement. I believe, if this matter is thoroughly explained to this organization, that they will be in sympathy with it. As I told you the other evening, it is always better to improve an organization by being on the inside than it is by offering suggestions on the outside. If, however, this Federation does not see fit to officially take up this proposition, then the four Farm Bureau presidents who were in attendance at the conference here in Washington might form a special committee to perfect definite plans for launching the movement.

2. A high-class manager should be employed. This man should preferably have had some agricultural training or at least have an agricultural view-point. He should be a man thoroughly familiar with publicity campaigns, in order that he may be capable of starting and following up this big proposition. As we view the situation, there are other things which an organization of this kind should consider in addition to the farm labor proposition and therefore it should be organized with the idea in mind that it will be permanent or at least active during the present emergency. The movement will involve the raising of sufficient funds to carry it forward.

3. Every effort should be made to so work out the plans that the movement will not savor of pacifism or seem to be in opposition to the Government program. I know that you men have the correct idea, but a movement which involves so many people may drift along the course just mentioned. This should be carefully guarded against at the outset.

You will find this Office willing to give you all necessary assistance, but you realize that the movement must come from the farmers themselves to be a success, not city farmers but actual farmers who walk between the plow handles. After you have considered this matter further with Mr. Porter and the other men, we will be willing if you so desire to furnish you with names of the extension directors in the several states in the North and West who in turn can give you the names of leaders in the farm bureau movement over the country.

Because of my absence from the Office, I would suggest that you write directly to Mr. W. A. Lloyd of this Office, who as you know is in charge of the county agent work in the Northern and Western States, and is in a better position to give you the necessary aid than I am. However, you may feel free to ask me for any help that may seem necessary. With all good wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. R. Simons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "L." and last name "Simons" clearly distinguishable.

L. R. SIMONS

*Agriculturist, County Agent Work*

During the period November 16, 1917 to February 12-13, 1919, when the conference of representatives of 12 State Farm Federations was held in Ithaca to discuss and recommend plans for the formation of a national Farm Bureau, the New York State Farm Bureau Federation, with the able guidance of M. C. Burritt and H. E. Babcock, took the leadership in encouraging other states to form additional State Federations and to discuss the possibilities of a national Federation. At that time there were 984 County Farm Bureaus and 20 State Farm Bureau Federations in existence. Twenty years later, December 6, 1939, when the writer was asked to present a paper, "Twenty years of cooperation between the Farm Bureau and Extension," at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago, the organization had about doubled in size—1741 County Farm Bureaus and 40 State Federations. In 1956 the organization covered all the 48 states and Puerto Rico with a total membership of 1,587,107 farm families.

Letters and statements relating to the events during the formative period from November 1917 to the launching meeting in Chicago, November 12-13, 1919, taken from the personal files of H. E. Babcock and the records of the New York State Farm Bureau, may be found in the Appendix.

**R E P O R T**  
of the  
**CONFERENCE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE FEDERATIONS OF FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATIONS, HELD AT ITHACA, N.Y. Feb. 12-13, 1919.**

STATES REPRESENTED

Delaware	New Hampshire
Illinois	New York
Iowa	Ohio
Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Missouri	Vermont
Michigan	West Virginia

COMMITTEE SELECTED ON ORGANIZATION OF AN  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF FARM BUREAUS

O. E. BRADFUTE, <i>Chairman</i>	Xenia, R. D. 5, Ohio
CHESTER H. GRAY	Nevada, Missouri
E. B. CORNWALL	Middlebury, Vermont
J. C. SAYLOR	Cissna Park, Illinois
FRANK M. SMITH, <i>Secretary</i>	Springfield Center, N.Y.

STATES AT PRESENT SUPPORTING  
COMMITTEE

Delaware	New Hampshire
Illinois	New York
Iowa	Ohio
Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Michigan	Vermont
Missouri	West Virginia

### History of the Conference

During the first part of 1918, several communications from other states were received by the Board of Directors of the New York State Federation of County Farm Bureau Associations, suggesting the possibility of a National Federation of Farm Bureaus. At a meeting held on September 11th, 1918, the Board of Directors instructed Chairman Frank Smith, of its Organization Committee, who had received most of the correspondence, to invite representatives of other State Federations with which he might be able to get in touch to meet with New York State at its Annual Meeting to be held on February 12th and 13th, 1919.

Acting under these instructions, Mr. Smith corresponded with seventeen states. As a result of this correspondence, representatives of twelve states met in conference at Ithaca on the evening of February 12th, 1919 and on the day following. Minutes of what transpired at this conference follow:

**DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE HELD AT ITHACA, N.Y. TO  
CONSIDER ORGANIZATION OF A NATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
FARM BUREAUS FEBRUARY 12-13, 1919**

STATE	DELEGATE	ADDRESS
Delaware	Frank F. Yeardsley M. O. Pence	Marshallton, Del. Newark, Del.
Illinois	J. C. Saylor C. V. Gregory W. G. Eckhardt	Cissna Park, Ill. Wheaton, Ill. De Kalb, Ill.
Iowa	J. R. Howard	Clemons, Ia.
Massachusetts	Ernest H. Gilbert Fred W. Burnham	Stoughton, Mass. Greenfield, Mass.
Michigan	R. G. Potts C. A. Bingham Dr. Eben Mumford	Washington, Mich. Bingham, Mich. East Lansing, Mich.
Missouri	Chester H. Gray	Nevada, Mo.
New Hampshire	George A. Hill	Concord, R. 2, N.H.
New York	D. V. Farley	Campbell Hall, N.Y.
Ohio	O. E. Bradfute Harry G. Beals	Xenia, R. D. 5, Ohio Mt. Sterling, Ohio
Pennsylvania	W. S. Wise	Meadville, Pa.
Vermont	E. B. Cornwall L. K. Osgood	Middlebury, Vt. Rutland, Vt.
West Virginia	J. B. McLaughlin Nat. T. Frame	Strange Creek, W. Va. Morgantown, W.Va.

**CONFERENCE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PROPOSITION  
TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FARM  
BUREAUS, HELD AT THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,  
ITHACA, N.Y. FEBRUARY 12th and 13th, 1919**

PROGRAM

8:00 P.M. Feb. 12, 1919

1. President S. L. Strivings of New York State Federation calls to order.
2. Welcome and explanation of purpose of the conference—S. L. Strivings, N.Y.
3. Report of New York State Committee on Organization—Frank Smith, Chairman Organization Committee, N.Y. State Federation.
4. Conference elects chairman and secretary.
5. Remarks by C. B. Smith, Head of States Relations Service, U. S. Dep't. Agriculture.

6. General Discussion of National Federation led by State Federation Representatives.
7. Appointment of committees for later reports.
8. Adjournment until 2:00 P.M. Thursday, February 13th.

### MINUTES OF MEETING

President S. L. Strivings, of the New York State Federation of County Farm Bureau Associations, called the meeting to order and in his opening remarks stated that the objects of the National Federation were two-fold: (1) to provide the nation with some sane organization thoroughly representative of agriculture throughout the entire United States, which might speak for the farmers of the entire country; (2) to take advantage of a nation-wide organization—the Farm Bureau—which promises great possibilities of usefulness in developing a program which will reach the entire country and which will bring into action the strongest farmers of the nation.

He added that this was the time when agriculture needs to build if it ever needs to build solidly and surely for the future; that there is an opportunity present now which will not come again to set in motion a program of construction. He recognized that the Farm Bureau is in its infancy and untried in many of the states. For this reason, he did not expect that the conference which was being held would even expect results immediately in the shape of a national Federation. The meeting, he said, was not representative enough to form a Federation of Farm Bureaus that would be nation-wide. All great movements must have beginnings, however, and the conference gave an opportunity for discussing plans and appointing a committee looking forward to future action. He said if the organization was to be developed, it must be kept thoroughly democratic, thoroughly representative of actual farm conditions, and close to the farmers of the nation. Superimposed agriculture, however well constructed, is sure to fail. If an organization cannot get down to actual needs, it cannot exist.

#### FRANK SMITH, N.Y.

President Strivings then introduced Mr. Smith, Chairman of the Organization Committee of the New York State Federation, who reported upon the work of his committee in getting the conference together. Mr. Smith reported representatives from eleven states. (West Virginia was represented later bringing the total up to 12.) He told how his committee had worked to get in touch with other states and said that replies to practically all of his letters had been very favorable, but that he had found that Federations did not exist in some states, although they were in process of formation. Mr. Smith then called the roll of delegates and representatives present.

1st Vice-President, D. V. Farley, of the New York State Federation, explained that since the delegates to the Annual Meeting of the New York State Federation of Farm Bureau Associations were present at the conference, in order that New York might have no undue representation, that one member had been elected to speak for New York.

## CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY ELECTED

The Conference of State Delegates then proceeded to elect Mr. Farley as Chairman of the Conference, and County Agent Leader H. E. Babcock, of New York, as Secretary. Mr. Babcock asked to be excused on the ground that he felt none but real farmers should participate in the conference, and Mr. Frank Smith was elected secretary in his place.

### C. B. SMITH SPEAKS

C. B. Smith, Chief of the States Relations Service, was called upon and addressed the meeting. Mr. Smith stated that there were about 1200 counties with county agents in the United States, but that only between 700 and 800 had Farm Bureaus (local county associations of farmers supporting the work) and that of these scarcely 400 had real local organizations that were functioning. The big job now is to get real local associations established in every county. This is especially important because of the fact that county agents had been placed in 700 new counties within the last 18 months. He stated that the Government had not given much thought to a national organization. State Associations and National Associations rest on the small County Associations. He felt that every county should have such an Association before a nation-wide movement could succeed; but that he thought it was possible to initiate a nation-wide Association of Farm Bureaus through which every farmer in the United States could be reached by Federal, State, and County governments, an Association through which farmers might express themselves to the Government.

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

Following Mr. Smith's remarks, Chairman Farley opened the meeting for general discussion, asking that the remarks be brief and stating that he would limit the speakers to five minutes.

#### IOWA—MR. R. A. HOWARD:

Mr. Howard opened his remarks by stating that the Farm Bureaus in Iowa had helped increase production during the war 27% over the ten year average. He said that his conception of the Farm Bureau system was an organization centering around a County Agent, through which the people reached, by means of the County Agent, the Extension Department of the College, and the Department of Agriculture and received what they had to give. Farm Bureaus do not solve all problems. There are many, as yet untouched, that are of vital importance. The system has been aimed too definitely at production. It has never effectively touched the big economic questions of marketing and distribution. The Federal Government has studied these problems but never passed anything down which has been of any benefit to Iowa farmers. He said that he considered economic questions a legitimate problem for Farm Bureau Associations, County, State and National, to take up. Farmers should be kept in touch directly and non-politically with world conditions in agriculture. He said that he desired to see the movement develop in its broad sense as economic, nation-wide, and world-wide—and free from any partisan influence.

#### **DELAWARE—MR. FRANK YEARDSLEY:**

Mr. Yeardsley said that there were but three counties in Delaware: all had organized Farm Bureau Associations. There was no Federation.

#### **MASSACHUSETTS—ERNEST H. GILBERT:**

Mr. Gilbert said that his State had a Federation; that the voting body consisted of three delegates from each County; that Massachusetts was in favor of a National Federation; that the problems in his State were much different from those in the West, Massachusetts farmers being as much interested in buying as in selling, and particularly interested in improving transportation facilities.

#### **ILLINOIS—C. V. GREGORY:**

Mr. Gregory said that Illinois has all the educational facilities that she needs; farmers don't want any more; that there are two important sides to agriculture—education and economics. The former is well taken care of: the latter has not been touched. Illinois has a Federation of Farm Bureaus called the Illinois Agricultural Association. The work of this Association is distinct from the work of the County Farm Bureaus. They and the County Agents take care of education. The State Association is strictly a business and economic Association, which fosters and encourages education. Illinois feels the need of an Association of farmers that can meet the American Federation of Labor, the United States Chamber of Commerce, and the packers of Chicago, with an organization just as strong as they have.

If a National Association is formed primarily for the purpose of putting a Farm Bureau (Association) in every county that has none, it will fail. The nation needs a sound, nation-wide organization of farmers that stands for Americanism. Such an organization based on County Farm Bureaus and State Associations affords the best opportunity we have ever had, but it must be based on business and economic motives. He said that he hoped to see Committees appointed and the movement started; and, perhaps, in 6 months, a real organization come out of the conference.

#### **MISSOURI—CHESTER H. GRAY:**

Mr. Gray said that as President of one of the oldest State Farm Bureau Associations the only criticism that came to him of the Farm Bureau was that it was not functioning so as to benefit the members economically. The economic feature of rural life is being stressed at the present time and cannot be kept down, and if the Farm Bureau fails in its mission, it will fail because it does not tackle this problem thoroughly. It is fundamentally an educational institution, but it must not dodge economic problems. He suggested the name of "American Federation of Farm Bureaus" for a National organization.

#### **VERMONT—E. B. CORNWALL:**

Mr. Cornwall said that Vermont had a State Federation. He said it was no use to urge farmers to produce unless they could produce at a profit; that this was a side that the Farm Bureaus should tackle; that if a movement for a National Federation was to succeed, it must come from the farmers themselves; that he believed a Committee ought to be appointed now to get together and see

what plans could be made for a future organization meeting in a more central part of the United States. In closing he said that the economic and educational sides of Farm Bureau work should not be separated but that more stress should be put on the economic side.

**NEW YORK—JOHN ARFMAN:** (Speaking for Mr. Farley).

Mr. Arfman said that he had never seen the time when it was more necessary for the farmers of any country to get closer together and cooperate with one another than during the past six weeks. He said that he believed the educational part of the Farm Bureau was absolutely necessary; that the Farm Bureaus should keep on holding meetings all over their counties, and keep talking to farmers. They needed the education. He brought out that education was needed and was possible on the economic side of agriculture and that the Farm Bureau could supply this education. He said that the National Federation must be kept a farmers' organization and a farmers' organization only; that County, State, and National organizations should seek to select, and work out the problems that pertain to these units. He pointed out that the New York State Federation had been extremely busy during the past year; that if this was the case, he did not see why a National Federation would not be equally busy. In closing, he said that he was authorized to join with the other delegates in the effort to get together as soon as possible and form a National Federation. He was not sure that the time was the present, but felt certain that the hour was very near and that it was up to the delegates to take some action immediately.

**MICHIGAN—MR. RAY POTTS:**

Mr. Potts said that he represented a new federation that the Michigan delegates had come to the conference with the idea of working with the balance of the states in forming of a National Federation when that time comes. With only 12 States represented, he was not sure that anything more should be done now than to simply get the movement under way.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE—GEORGE HILL:**

Mr. Hill said that they had had a Farm Bureau Federation for about three years; that this Federation had been active on the economic side of agriculture, the President having taken a very active part and done good work for the New England Milk Producers Association. He said he felt that from the type of men speaking in the conference that the Farm Bureau movement was bound to succeed.

**OHIO—MR. O. E. BRADFUTE:**

Mr. Bradfute reported that they had recently organized a State Federation in Ohio. He said that he believed that one of the great works that a State and a National Federation, if formed, had to do was to educate the people not farmers in the problems of agriculture. He related his experience with the Chicago Public in organizing the National Livestock Exposition Show. He said that he felt that the conference was at least opening up the way for a National meeting and that definite steps ought to be taken looking forward to such an organization in the near future.

## **PENNSYLVANIA—W. S. WISE:**

Mr. Wise said that County Agents were placed in practically all of the counties in Pennsylvania at the present time; that there was no State organization and that therefore he could not speak for a State Federation and doubted the propriety of simply stating his personal opinions to the conference.

### **Organization Committee Appointed:**

At this point, a motion was made by E. B. Cornwall, of Vermont, that the Chairman appoint a Committee of five to draw up a definite plan of action for consideration the next afternoon. Motion seconded by Mr. Eckhardt of Illinois and carried. Mr. Farley appointed the following committee:

Mr. O. E. Bradfute, Ohio, Chairman  
Mr. Chester H. Gray, Missouri  
Mr. E. B. Cornwall, Vermont  
Mr. Frank Smith, New York  
Mr. C. V. Gregory, Illinois

On motion the meeting adjourned until two o'clock the next afternoon.

Feb. 13th

2 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Farley, who announced the presence of two delegates from West Virginia.

### **Temporary Committee on Organization Reports:**

Mr. O. E. Bradfute, Chairman, read the report of the temporary committee on organization. It was moved and seconded that this report be adopted.

Mr. Howard, Iowa, suggested that the date for the meeting should not be set by the Committee. He moved to amend the report to make the last sentence read "A meeting shall be called to perfect a permanent organization at Chicago, Illinois, at the call of this Committee." Motion seconded by Mr. Eckhardt.

Mr. Bradfute, Chairman of the Committee, stated that the reason the Committee had fixed the date was because there were not many states with organized federations and the Committee felt that if a definite date were set for an organization meeting, it would tend to get these States organized before that date.

Mr. Eckhardt, County Agent, Illinois, stated that farmers should be ready for action at the earliest possible moment and that States should be in a position by the first of July to put enough money into the movement so that somebody can be employed to consolidate it. An active national association would be largely responsible for getting the other states organized.

Mr. Saylor, Illinois, said that he hoped the other states would meet Illinois in the support of the National organization with money.

Mr. Howard's amendment was then voted upon and lost.

Chairman Farley then suggested that the report of the Committee be amended to include West Virginia. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to this effect.

The report of the committee, as amended was then voted upon and accepted unanimously. This report follows.

A conference of representatives of the State Farm Bureau Organizations of Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Vermont, and West Virginia, together with County Farm Bureau Presidents informally representing the States of Pennsylvania and Delaware (which have not yet completed State organizations) was held at Ithaca, New York, February 12 and 13 for the purpose of considering plans for the organization of a national farmers' association based on state organizations of farm bureaus.

It was the unanimous sentiment of the delegates that owing to the great need for a national body that should be in position to speak for all farmers of the United States, preliminary steps should be taken to organize a national farmers' organization at the earliest possible moment.

The purpose of such an organization, as outlined at this preliminary meeting, should be to handle broad questions of national importance affecting farmers, together with local agricultural questions which because of their nature cannot be successfully handled by the state organizations acting individually.

The temporary committee appointed to recommend a definite plan of action makes the following recommendations:

That a committee of five be elected to act as an organization committee until a meeting of delegates from the various states for the purpose of perfecting organization shall be assembled.

The duties of this committee shall be to keep in touch with all states having state farm bureau organizations and urge all other states to organize and perfect such state associations as rapidly as possible, in order that they may be ready to take part in forming the permanent national organization. This committee shall prepare a tentative draft for constitution and by-laws for presentation at the regular organization meeting and such constitution and by-laws shall provide a suggested plan of financing the national organization, which shall in their judgment be fair and equitable, and at the same time provide the necessary funds which the national association must have for its successful operation.

The committee recommends that the meeting to perfect a permanent organization shall be held November 12th and 13th 1919, at Chicago, Ill.

Committee O. E. BRADFUTE, Ohio, *Chairman*  
CHESTER H. GRAY, Mo.  
E. B. CORNWALL, Vt.  
FRANK SMITH, N.Y.  
C. B. GREGORY, Ill.

It was then moved and seconded that the temporary committee on organization be continued as a Committee of the conference to continue its work and call a meeting next November. Moved by Mr. Gregory, Illinois, to amend the motion, by substituting Mr. J. C. Saylor, in place of himself. Seconded by Mr. Howard. Amendment carried. Mr. Gregory explained that he felt that none but real farmers should be on the Committee. Moved by Mr. Saylor to amend the motion by making the committee seven instead of five, one of the additional men to be Mr. R. A. Howard, of Iowa. Amendment seconded, and after discussion, By Mr. Cornwall, Mr. Gray, and Mr. Howard, himself, in favor of a small committee, the amendment lost. The original motion as amended called for and carried unanimously.

Mr. Strivings moved on behalf of the New York State Federation of County Farm Bureau Associations, the delegates to which were present in the room, that

a vote of thanks be extended to the delegates from other States, who had so courteously responded and come so far on New York State's invitation in the belief that some plan could be worked out for the betterment of agriculture. Motion seconded and carried by a rising vote.

Mr. Gilbert, Massachusetts, moved that the visiting state delegates extend a vote of thanks to New York State Federation for the courteous treatment extended the delegates. Seconded by Mr. Howard, carried unanimously, all delegates voting on suggestion of Mr. Potts of Mich. Meeting adjourned.

## ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

Meeting Organization Committee American Farm Bureau Federation held at Hotel Deshler, Columbus, Ohio, October 3rd, 1919. Present Chairman Bradfute, Cornwall, Gray, Saylor and Smith.

Moved by Mr. Gray that the meeting of organization be held at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, Ill. November 12th and 13th 1919. Seconded by Mr. Saylor. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Cornwall that each state have one vote at the Chicago meeting on all questions, but may have present any number of representatives, who are entitled to the privileges of the floor. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Saylor that the Secretary of all state organizations based on the Farm Bureau plan be sent a copy of the meeting of the organization committee and where there is no such organization, a copy be mailed to the State Leader. Seconded by Mr. Gray. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Cornwall, that the name of the organization be The American Farm Bureau Federation. Seconded by Mr. Smith. Carried.

Dr. Thompson, Chairman Executive Committee American Association, Agricultural Colleges and Prof. Wheeler, Director Agricultural Extension, Ohio State University, appeared before committee and suggested that there be arranged a joint program for Thursday P.M. November 13th.

Moved by Mr. Gray, That delegates to organization meeting of American Farm Bureau Federation cooperate in a joint session with the American Association of Agricultural Colleges Thursday P.M. November 13th. Seconded by Mr. Saylor. Carried.

Moved by Mr. Gray, That the membership dues as specified in Section 1, Article V of the proposed constitution be approved, provided further arrangements are developed to provide a guarantee fund\* of \$300.00 per county affiliated with the State Federations, which is to be immediately available. Seconded by Mr. Saylor. Carried.

The proposed constitution was then taken up by Articles and adopted.

Program for Chicago meeting drafted and adopted.\*

Prof. W. A. Lloyd of the States Relations Service discussed with the members of the Committee the relationship of the Federation and the Department.

No further business appearing the meeting adjourned.

Signed

FRANK M. SMITH

*Secretary Organization Committee*

\* See Appendix.

## PRESS STATEMENT BY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

The American Farm Bureau Federation, organization of which will be perfected at a big nation-wide meeting at Chicago, November 12th and 13th, will have for its object "to correlate and strengthen the work of the State Farm Bureau Federations, to represent and protect the business and economic interests of agriculture, and to represent the farmers of the entire nation," according to a tentative constitution adopted by the organization Committee at Columbus, Ohio, October 3rd.

This new farmers' association, which is planned to cover the entire United States and represent agriculture in a more comprehensive way than ever before, will be financed and controlled entirely by the farmers themselves. It will be a federation of the various State Associations, which are in turn based on the County Farm Bureaus.

There are at this time twenty-three (23) such State Federations organized. It is thought that nearly all these State Associations, representing at least 225,000 of the 450,000 of the Farm Bureau members in the United States, will come in as charter members. An active campaign will be planned at the November meeting to organize the other states of the Union.

The National Federation will be financed, according to the tentative constitution, by a membership fee of ten (10) cents from each individual Farm Bureau member for the first year, twenty-five (25) cents the second and fifty (50) cents the third. The suggested membership fee for the first year was purposely kept low in order that the newly organized states, many of which are as yet poorly financed, may not be kept out.

The Federation will not lack for funds the first year, however, if the plans of the organization committee are carried out. These plans call for a guarantee fund of close to \$200,000 a year. As much of this amount as may be needed will be used to carry on the work on a big scale from the start, until the amount of money coming in from dues becomes sufficient for that purpose.

Each state will be asked to secure pledges to the guarantee fund to the amount of \$300.00 a year for three years for each County Farm Bureau affiliated with the State Federation.

The governing body of the American Farm Bureau Federation will be a Board of Directors, consisting of one from each state, and one additional for every ten thousand (10,000) paid up members or major fraction thereof in such state. The annual meeting of the Federation will be held at Chicago in November of each year.

The administrative affairs of the Federation according to the suggested constitution, will be in the hands of an executive Committee, composed of the President, Vice-President and nine members, all of whom shall be elected for one year. No two members of the committee may be from the same state.

The Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Director of the States Relations Service will be invited to attend all meetings of the Executive Committee, but will not be allowed to vote.

A paid Secretary, with necessary assistants and office force will be hired by the Executive Committee.

The suggested constitution is the work of an organization committee appointed at a preliminary meeting at Ithaca, N.Y., February 12th and 13th, 1919, at which twelve states were represented. The chairman of the committee is O. E.

Bradfute of Ohio. The other members are Chester H. Gray of Missouri, E. B. Cornwall of Vermont, J. C. Saylor of Illinois and Frank M. Smith of New York.

Keynote addresses at the Chicago meeting outlining the objects and purposes of the new national association, will be made the morning of November 12th by Harvey J. Sconce of Illinois, S. L. Strivings of New York and J. R. Howard of Iowa. This will be followed by a report of the organization committee, adoption of a constitution, a general discussion of the work of the National Federation and election of officers. Each state will have one vote at this organization meeting, but may send as many delegates as desired.

"I have great faith in the future of this new association," said Chairman O. E. Bradfute at the close of the Columbus meeting. "The fact that it is based on the County Farm Bureaus, means that it will be a solid, substantial, representative organization, composed of the best farmers in the United States. The launching of this association at Chicago in November will be a great day for American agriculture."

## THE HISTORIC CHICAGO MEETING

The "Prairie Farmer", a regional farm magazine, in the first of its three special convention daily issues (November 12, 13, and 14, 1919) carried the following statement:

The most important meeting in the history of American agriculture opens this morning at the LaSalle Hotel. The future of agriculture—perhaps even the future of the nation itself—depends on the formation of a strong, aggressive, nationwide farmers' association.

Thus was expressed the point of view of many of the delegates from the Central-Western states and this thought dominated the first day of the convention. While the Eastern delegates and the extension leaders had expected this, they were greatly disturbed by the prevalence of this feeling. The State county agent leaders and officials of the Federal office were particularly disturbed.

Here was the culmination of years of hard work in developing a useful educational program through the county agent system with the backing of a strong supporting organization of farm people. As previously stated, these men from the Eastern states and from the Federal office hoped the national organization would be organized on the same basis as the County Farm Bureaus and the State Federations. These leaders were jolted by the rough treatment accorded them at the convention. Not only were these leaders ignored, but for the most part were denied the privilege of speaking on the floor of the convention. Only one or two of the most persistent succeeded in making short statements and these were treated with derision by many of the delegates.

On the front page of the November 13th issue of the "Prairie Farmer", under the heading "State Leaders in Gas Attack", appeared the following:

Several State leaders made themselves objectionable at the meeting yesterday afternoon by their extensive gas barrage. There is strong sentiment among the delegates of limiting debate to farmers only.

Later in the same issue, the following appeared under the heading, "The Pests Appear":

Professor F. E. Balmer of Minnesota who proved to be the champion pest of the afternoon made three or four speeches in which he protested against the form in which the meeting was conducted, against the objects of the organization as stated in the proposed constitution, against domination by real farmers and in favor of an association operated chiefly by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and agricultural colleges. None of Balmer's ideas seemed to make a hit, so that he did not protest much late in the afternoon when Article II of the Constitution was adopted stating that the purpose is to represent and protect the business, social and economic interests of agriculture, to represent the farmers of the whole nation and to promote agriculture.

Good old Frank Balmer, a friend of the writer, had been one of the most ardent advocates of the Farm Bureau. He had labored beyond the call of duty in reorganizing Farm Bureaus in Western Minnesota where selfish business interests had succeeded in stopping county appropriations. On his first assignment as a representative of the Federal office, the writer had worked with him there and elsewhere in Minnesota. Now Balmer discovered that he could not stand up to defend the principles he so thoroughly believed in at a meeting designed to promote the interests of the organization he had worked so hard to produce. His motives and statements were misunderstood and misrepresented.

Balmer and some of the other state leaders had been "properly" squelched; so much so that to our knowledge they never appeared at other national Farm Bureau conventions.

Some of us concluded more could be accomplished by advising quietly with the sympathetic farmers and leaders from the East such as S. L. Strivings, Frank Smith and E. V. Titus and, of course, Burritt and Babcock of New York. Thus, certain compromises were reached.

Quoting again from the "Prairie Farmer":

For East is East and West is West, and never the two shall meet. But, East and West did meet at the great conference in Chicago and thrashed out their differences frankly and for the most part good naturedly and in the end found themselves standing on common ground of service to the bigger interests of agriculture of America.

Before leaving Chicago, the State and the Federal Extension leaders decided that this was the beginning of the end of the legal relationship between Extension and the Farm Bureau.

Later developments supported this belief and as more and more of the State Farm Bureaus entered the commercial and legislative fields, business interests began to question the right to use public funds "to further the interests of farmers to the detriment of commercial agencies". This was directed against the county agents who aided farmers in forming farmer cooperatives. In one Illinois County, county appropriations to support the Farm Bureau were cut off because of its activities in securing a better adjustment of assessments on farm property.

Under date of January 21, 1927, "Wallace's Farmer" stated editorially as follows:

The Farm Bureau labors under the handicap of combining two distinct functions. It is at once an educational institution supported partly by public funds and devoted to ends designed to advance the general welfare of the community. It is also an organization of farmers, designed to secure for farmers as a class a fair share of the community means. Naturally, all sorts of difficulty arises.

It has been our belief for a long time that in the end these two functions will have to be supported separately; that the Farm Bureau as a farmers' organization will have to stand entirely on its own feet, without any semblance of Federal or State or county aid. At the same time, we are quite sure that the excellent educational work carried on by the county agent or someone performing that same function, will be continued as a part of the Extension program of the state college.

### **Permanent Organization of American Farm Bureau Effected**

The final steps to form the national organization were taken on March 3-4, 1920. The following description of this is taken from the papers of H. E. Babcock.

On March 3-4, 1920 at Chicago, Illinois, the American Farm Bureau became a fact. New York State was represented at this meeting by the farm directors authorized by the constitution and by 20 delegates.

Thus, in about seven years after the Farm Bureau movement started in Broome County, New York, the great national organization was launched.

### **28 States Join Federation**

Of the 33 states represented at the organization meeting, 28 had ratified and were on the ground to participate in the first annual meeting. These 28 states represented a County Farm Bureau membership of approximately 200,000, sent 53 directors to the meeting and reported they would contribute about \$200,000 in dues.

Iowa was the high State with 104,388 members, giving it six directors; New York was second with 67,618 members; Illinois was third with 55,000,

and Indiana, Ohio and Michigan followed closely with from 30,000 to 50,000 members.

### **Real Farmers Dominate Meeting**

Like the preliminary meeting in November 1919, this one was without parallel in the number and representatives of real farmers present. In the New York delegation of 25, only two or three actually did not do their own farm work.

Other than perfecting the permanent organization, little else was accomplished. However, a set of resolutions was adopted after a discussion which was of value because it covered some of the things expected of the Federation by the delegates.

### **Constitution Amended**

Frequently during the meeting, attempts were made by the Middle West directors to amend the constitution along lines defeated at the previous meeting. The real purpose of these proposed amendments was to give the Middle West more direction of the organization. Their claim was that they had the largest membership and paid the bulk of the funds. Of course, this was true.

An amendment was forced through by the Middle West, over the bitter opposition of the East and California, making the membership fee in the national Federation 50¢ per County Association member.

This would raise an enormous amount of money. There was genuine doubt by the East, which was more experienced in Farm Bureau work, that so much should be raised in advance of experience. Before it is effective, it must be ratified by ten States. This would give the members in the various states an opportunity to express their judgment.

### **Middle West Still Aggressive**

Time and time again during the meeting, Western delegates made the point that the American Farm Bureau Federation was formed solely for economic purposes. On this basis they succeeded in the adoption of their instructions to the executive committee to investigate transportation and marketing problems. Apparently they wanted the national organization to plunge into the marketing of agricultural products as some of the State Federations were doing.

New York and the other Eastern states did not oppose the Middle West point of view that the American Farm Bureau Federation had an economic function, but they warned repeatedly that the real strength of the Federation depended on the County Farm Bureaus. They pointed out that its real function was to correlate the work of the State Federations, as the State Federations correlate the work of the County Associations.

While the differences were very evident, these were not as bitter as at the November 1919 meeting.

J. R. Howard of Iowa was elected president and S. L. Strivings of New York, vice-president. This gave the presidency to Iowa, which entered the Federation with the largest membership and the vice-presidency to New York with the second largest. The Secretary will be elected by the execu-

tive committee. No one candidate stands out very clearly for the place. Many thought M. C. Burritt of New York would make the best man for the job, but Mr. Burritt advised he was not interested. (Later, J. W. Coverdale, Iowa county agent leader and a personal friend of the author, was chosen.)

The development of a program rests squarely on the executive committee under President Howard's leadership. Two points of view will be brought to bear on this committee, (1) that of the Eastern, Far Western and some of the Southern states to correlate the functions of the State Federations and providing the farmers of the nation with a national voice, (2) that of the Middle West to plunge into the business of marketing agricultural products.

### **An Enormous Organization**

Without question the American Farm Bureau Federation starts off with the promise of being the greatest farmers' organization in the history of the country. It has the prospects of a million and a half membership by the end of the year. It has funds enough to enable it to meet the demands upon it and to dignify officers with salaries comparable to those paid by capital and labor organizations. It is directed by real farmers and led by men of the type of Howard. It has the size, power and leadership to accomplish great things.

Its real task is ahead of it. Without doubt it will encounter many difficulties and often falter. The real power of the organization, however, comes from those thousands of farmers scattered all over the United States that bear that simple slogan "Farm Bureau Member" and in them is strength untold.

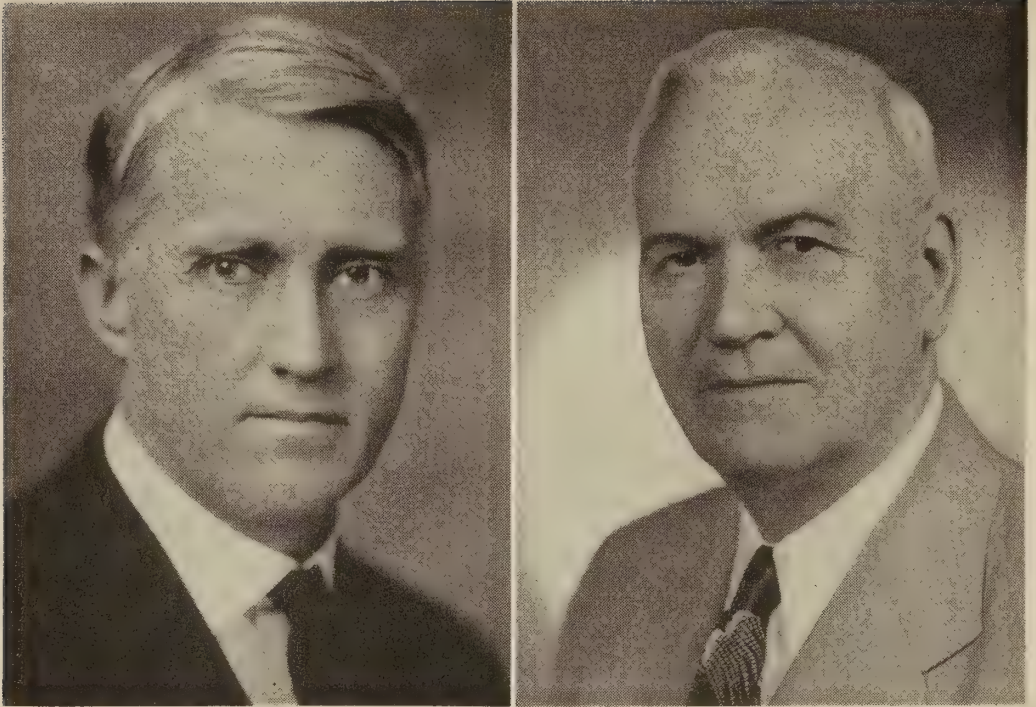
Thus concludes Mr. Babcock's report.

### **Continuing Progress**

Much of his prediction was borne out by later developments. The national organization prospered under the leadership of Mr. Howard and his successors. Like most organizations, its membership totals fluctuated with current conditions. Its influence in public affairs is great. Much to the credit of its founders, the Eastern point of view as expounded so forcefully by such leaders as Burritt and Babcock has been retained. Unlike the State Federations, the American Farm Bureau Federation has never engaged in commercial activities.

It has not and does not enter into partisan politics. Therefore, it commands the respect of leaders of both parties. It tries always to reflect the point of view of a substantial part of its membership. It deals fairly with other groups, particularly labor and business. It is striving constantly to uphold and protect the nation's interests.

In a recent letter to the writer, M. C. Burritt again reminds us of his original conception of the function of the Farm Bureau as now carried on



The first President of the American Farm Bureau, James R. Howard, *left*, and the first Secretary, John W. Coverdale, *right*.

in New York by the County Extension Service Associations. He says, "The pull of commercial activities of members on the Farm Bureau itself as compared with our plan to keep such activities segregated as in the G.L.F. was too strong to maintain my original conception."

Since the organization of the first County Farm Bureau in Broome County 45 years ago, the New York State Extension Service has maintained the closest cooperation with the County Farm Bureaus designated under legal state authorization as "subordinate governmental agencies" and mutual voluntary cooperation with the New York State Farm Bureau Federation. This was possible because the County Farm Bureaus were strictly educational organizations serving as partners with the State College of Agriculture in conducting Extension work. Likewise, the State Federation deviated very little from a program of education.

The term, "Farm Bureau," had a different meaning in most other states. In the public mind it meant a protective farmers' organization engaged in legislation and commercial activities. Pressures from competitive farm agencies, the Land-Grant College Association and the U. S. Department of Agriculture hastened the legal separation of the Farm Bureaus from Extension.

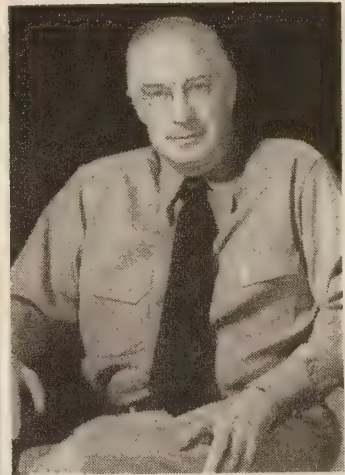
## State Leaders of County Agricultural Agents



Maurice C. Burritt, 1914-16



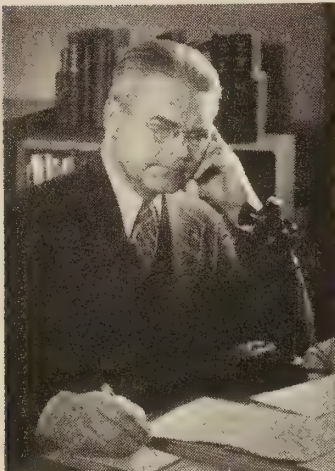
Lloyd S. Tenny, 1911-13



H. Edward Babcock,  
1916-20



Jay C. Coryell, 1920-28



Lloyd R. Simons, 1928-32



Fred B. Morris, 1943—

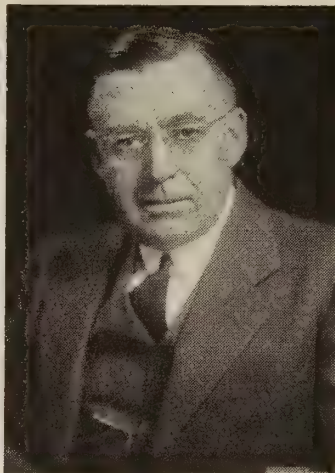


Earl A. Flansburgh, 1932-43

## Deans of the College of Agriculture



Albert R. Mann, 1917-31



*photo by Harris & Ewing*  
Carl E. Ladd, 1932-43



William I. Myers, 1943—

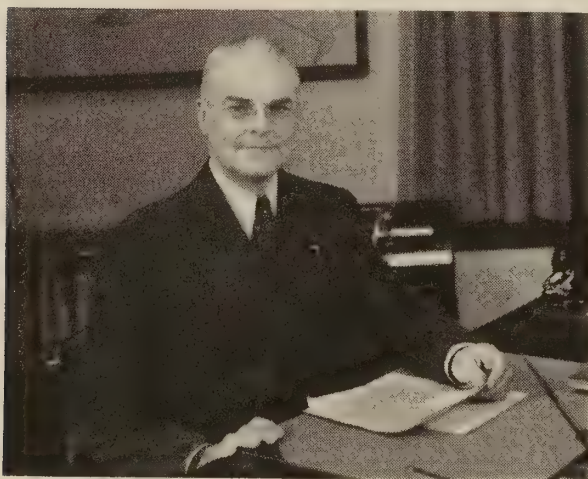
### *Not shown:*

Isaac P. Roberts, 1896-1903

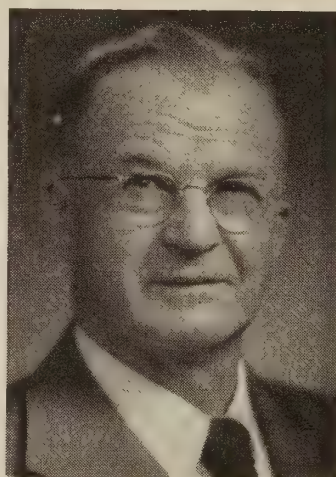
Liberty Hyde Bailey, 1903-13 (see p. 9)

Beverly T. Galloway, 1914-16

## Directors of Extension



Lloyd R. Simons, 1932-54



Maurice C. Bond, 1954—

### *Shown elsewhere:*

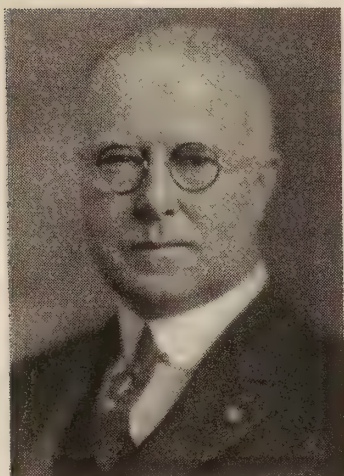
M. C. Burritt, 1916-24

(page 45)

C. E. Ladd, 1924-32

(above)

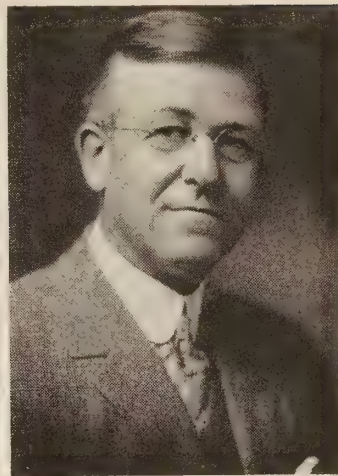
## New York State Farm Bureau Federation Presidents



Silas L. Strivings, 1917-22



Enos Lee, 1922-25



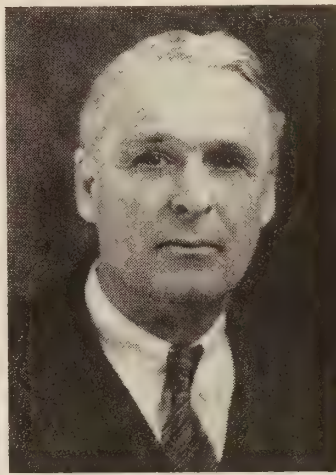
Peter C. TenEyck, 1925-26



Charles R. White, 1926-34



George W. Lamb, 1934



Herbert P. King, 1934-40



C. Chester DuMond,  
1940-43



Warren W. Hawley,  
1943-55



Don J. Wickham, 1955—

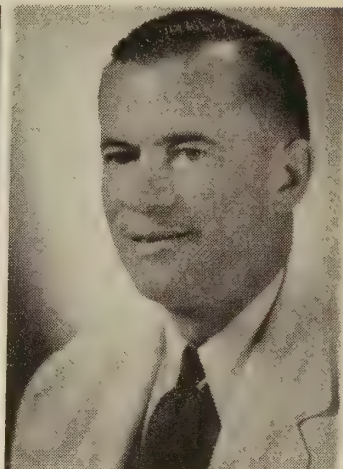
## Secretaries of the New York State Farm Bureau Federation



Howard E. Babcock,  
1917-20



E. Victor Underwood,  
1921-29



Edward S. Foster, 1929—



*Left to right:* C. Chester DuMond, Edward A. O'Neal, Warren W. Hawley, Edward S. Foster, at the Annual Meeting of the New York State Farm Bureau Federation, 1944. O'Neal was then President of the American Farm Bureau Federation.



Board of Directors of the New York State Farm Bureau Federation meeting at the home of E. V. Titus, Glen Cove, New York, June 25, 1938.

*Top row, left to right:* Huested Myers; Lewis Birdsall (a neighbor); Clayton White; C. Chester DuMond; Halsey Knapp, Director, State Institute of Agriculture at Farmingdale; G. Thomas Powell, former President of the Nassau County Farm Bureau; H. H. Campbell, county agricultural agent, Nassau County; Roland St. John, assistant agent; E. S. Foster, Executive Secretary of the Federation.

*Bottom row:* W. W. Hawley; H. P. King, President of the Federation; E. V. Titus, first President of the Nassau County Farm Bureau; L. R. Simons, Director of Extension and first Nassau County agent; Harold Simonson.

### Separation in New York

This was accomplished in New York after long discussions sometimes bitter in their implication. Both parties decided finally that it would be better for the Farm Bureaus and better for Extension, to go it alone. There was need for a strong educational agency on a strictly independent basis, and there was need for a strong farm organization which could speak out on controversial public issues unhampered by legal ties with a public agency.

So on January 1, 1956, the separation was completed with the leaders of both parties happy about the change, but with continued rumblings of discontent in the rank and file of the organization. It was difficult for those who had not been closely in touch with developments to understand why this New York State partnership arrangement, which they had been told continuously over the years and believed was the best in the country, could suddenly become so bad that it needed to be dissolved. This feeling of wonderment is gradually disappearing and eventually will be completely wiped out.

It was agreeable to both parties that the existing County Association, with the legal name of County Farm and Home Bureau and 4-H Club Association, be changed by law to the County Extension Service Association with three departments—agricultural, home demonstration and 4-H club. A paid membership with a nominal fee was retained in the agricultural and home demonstration departments.

The Farm Bureau is now building another organization with family membership at a larger fee and with services of use to farm families. Naturally, some difficulty is being experienced under such a marked change. However, with the addition of more services, and with much hard work and perseverance, a gradual growth is expected.



*Binghamton Press photo*

The newly elected officers of the independent Broome County Farm Bureau, 1955. Fred Lawrence, President, *center*, being congratulated by C. K. Bullock, Associate Secretary, New York State Farm Bureau Federation.

*Background:* Albert Schultz, *left*, Vice-president, and Merton Hurlbut, *right*, Secretary.

In the Farm Bureau reorganization program in New York State, Broome County was the first to sign incorporation papers for their new County Farm Bureau independent of the Extension Service. The ceremony of signing the papers took place March 7, 1955, just 44 years to the month following the organization of the first Farm Bureau in the United States. One of the signers of the document was Jack Quinn, who is the grandson of James Quinn, the first President of the Broome County Farm Bureau in 1911.

It should be mentioned that active assistance is being given by each former partner to the other, so that each may continue on a firm footing and be of service to the farmers and the public generally.

Having anticipated, as early as the national meeting in Chicago in 1919, that eventually the partnership must be dissolved, the writer participated in the discussions and procedures preparatory to the dissolution in New York State. This was done reluctantly and with some misgiving. After nearly a lifetime of service in building this worthwhile alliance, it was not easy to help in the separation. Conditions bring about changes. Well conceived changes bring progress.

It is possible, therefore, that under the capable leadership at the College and in the State Farm Bureau, the separation will result eventually in an even stronger Extension Service and a more efficient Farm Bureau. Under the effective leadership of Director M. C. Bond and Dean W. I. Myers of the College of Agriculture and that of President Don J. Wickham and Executive Secretary E. S. Foster of the State Farm Bureau, the fulfilment of earlier predictions is evident.

### **A Significant Partnership**

The accomplishments of the county agent-Farm Bureau partnership have been significant and far reaching. As separate agencies, these results are continuing. From a meager beginning, with some doubt in the minds of the founders and with little public interest or support, both of these great agencies continue to grow in strength and in the admiration of all understanding citizens and public leaders.

The county agent-Farm Bureau movement has offered rural people the opportunity to take part in planning and conducting Extension activities, and has enabled thousands to grow into more capable, progressive men and women. Development of leadership is the outstanding achievement of this unique association and would more than justify its existence if little else had been done.

## Appendix

### NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

ITHACA, N. Y.

A. R. MANN, DEAN AND DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION  
M. C. BURRITT, VICE DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION

D. J. CROSBY, PROFESSOR  
R. H. WHEELER, PROFESSOR  
G. A. EVERETT, PROFESSOR  
R. GILKEY, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
M. ROBINSON, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
C. W. WHITNEY, INSTRUCTOR  
G. R. PHIPPS, INSTRUCTOR

EXTENSION SERVICE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

March 7, 1918

MR. H. E. BABCOCK,  
College of Agriculture

DEAR MR. BABCOCK:

At a meeting of county agricultural agent leaders in the north eastern states at Boston on February 28th, the following resolution was adopted.

“WHEREAS A Federation of Farm Bureaus has been of material value in several states, therefore be it resolved;  
“That it is the sense of this meeting that active steps should be taken to bring the advantages of such a federation to the attention of Farm Bureau associations in the states here represented.”

I thought you might want to transmit this resolution to the Organization Committee of the Federation as an expression of the feeling of the county agent leaders in the north eastern group toward a National Federation.

Yours very truly,



Jan. 4, 1918

MR. FRANK SMITH,  
Springfield Center, N.Y.

DEAR MR. SMITH:

I am enclosing herewith a report of the Federation meeting of the Iowa County Farm Bureaus. You will note that they are evidently on the job out there, and if they collect membership as provided in Section 1, of Article 4, and have 40,000 Farm Bureau members, they certainly will have money enough to put themselves on the map.

I am wondering if it would not be worth while to make a very strong effort to get their president to our meeting. I do not find that his address is given anywhere in the report of the organization meeting, but you can address him c/o J. W. Coverdale, County Agent Leader, Ames, Iowa.

Yours very truly,

*H. E. Babcock*

*Secretary*

**The New York State Federation  
of  
County Farm Bureau Associations**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PRESIDENT S. L. STRIVINGS OF WYOMING  
1ST VICE PRESIDENT, D. V. FARLEY OF ORANGE  
2ND VICE PRESIDENT, W. H. DEPEW OF CAYUGA  
TREASURER, H. M. MCKENZIE OF DELAWARE  
EX-OFFICIO, M. C. BURRITT

ACTING SECRETARY  
H. E. BABCOCK

**Ithaca, N. Y.**

March 16, 1918

MR. A. A. HARTSHORN,  
Hamilton, N. Y.

DEAR MR. HARTSHORN:

Acting under instructions given me by the Executive Committee of the Federation I have investigated the possibilities of extending our State Federation of Farm Bureau Associations into a National Federation of Farm Bureau Associations with State organizations as members.

The best place that I knew to get this information was the Office in charge of extension work for the States Relations Service, Washington, D.C. This office has charge of the cooperation of the U. S. Department of Agriculture according to farm bureaus.

I took the matter up with W. A. Lloyd, the head of this office, and discussed it with him at some length some two weeks ago.

Mr. Lloyd said that east of Ohio, in most states they applied the term, "Farm Bureau" to the organization we call the "Farm Bureau Association." These farm bureaus are very new and have had very little time to become organized so as to do effective work.

Because these bureaus are new, Mr. Lloyd strongly advised against any move which would seek to draw them into another organization until they themselves were, first, well established.

Mr. Lloyd, however, was in favor of having New York State take the leadership in developing a Federation in which the State members should be members of the organizations of farm bureau associations in the New England States and possibly in the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

All of these states have a Federation of Farm Bureau Associations, which in every one of them the county organization existed from which a Federation could be formed.

In view of this conversation with Mr. Lloyd it is my recommendation to your committee as my report for the executive committee that you consider, (I) the organization of a Federation of Farm Bureau Associations for the Northeastern States and see that they are in working order before you attempt to spread the idea so as to include all of the Northern States.

Yours very truly,

*H E Babcock*

Secretary

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EX-OFFICIO, M. C. BURRITT

ACTING SECRETARY  
H. E. BABCOCK

Ithaca, N. Y.

Springfield Center  
8-21-18

Mr. H. E. BABCOCK, Sec'y.,  
N. Y. S. F. of C. Farm Bureaus  
Ithaca, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have your letter under date of the 18th inst. relative to National Chamber of Agriculture.

The idea of Mr. Mc Bride is alright. However, the next matter is to show the different state organizations why they should join. My correspondence in regard to a National Federation of Farm Bureaus is not very encouraging.

I should surely secure Mr. Mc Bride's ideas and find out just how far he has gone in the matter. Also as to whether or not many states have signified their intention of joining such a movement.

The matter of a meeting of the Organization committee, I would like that meeting anyway, no matter what report you get from Mr. Mc Bride as it would relieve me somewhat.

Yours very truly,

*Frank Burritt*

# The New York State Federation

of

## County Farm Bureau Associations

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EX-OFFICIO, M. C. BURRITT

ACTING SECRETARY

H. E. BABCOCK

Ithaca, N. Y.

Springfield Center

11-25-18

MR. H. E. BABCOCK, Sec.,  
N. Y. S. Federation F. B. Ass'ns.  
Ithaca, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR:

In accordance with our talk in Oneonta I have during the past week written to the State Leader of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio and Missouri asking them to name delegates to a conference on a National Federation of Farm Bureaus to be held in Ithaca during Farmer's Week.

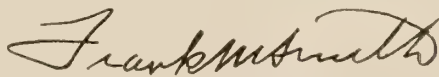
The reason that Missouri is invited to the exclusion of all other Western States is that she has a State Federation organized which is true of no other Western State.

In none of our letters or talks has the Department at Washington been mentioned. Do you deem it wise to wholly disregard the authorities at Washington? Would it not be a good move to organize along the lines of our Federation with someone from the Washington office in the same relation to the Federation as Mr. Burritt? Perhaps I am reaching into matters that are to be taken care of through some other agency. However, it has occurred to me several times that no one has mentioned this matter when talking of a National Federation.

To date I have received one reply to my letters. Delaware will send the Pres. of each of three Farm Bureaus in the State. I will keep you informed as I hear from the rest.

If you deem it wise to include other states not mentioned above kindly let me know.

Yours very truly,



Chairman Organization Committee

Nov. 27, 1918

MR. C. B. SMITH  
States Relations Service  
U.S. Dep't. of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C.

MY DEAR MR. SMITH:

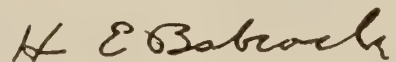
With further reference to our conversation in my office last week, about the organization of State and, perhaps, National Federations of Farm Bureau Associations, would say that the Chairman of our Organization Committee, of our State Federation, has written me and made the suggestion that if a National Federation is organized, there might be included on the Executive Committee a member of the States Relations Service office.

It strikes me that if this could be worked out, it would form a most reliable connection for the office, and I am writing to get your opinion of the advisability of trying to so shape matters that such a provision will be made in the Constitution and Bylaws of a National organization, should it go through.

I would prefer that you consider this letter as an unofficial communication, as I have no authority to represent our own Federation in making this suggestion.

It looks as though we were going to have Presidents from several States present at our Annual Meeting and I hope that either you or Mr. Lloyd can be here. This meeting comes the second week in February, probably on Wednesday and Thursday. If your office really does think well of this move to get the Presidents of Farm Bureau Associations in various States together, I would appreciate your instructing your field men to speak well of the proposition as they go from State to State.

Very truly yours,



*Secretary*

Dec. 5, 1918

MR. FRANK SMITH  
Springfield Center, N.Y.

MY DEAR MR. SMITH:

Enclosed is a letter received from Mr. C. B. Smith, with reference to the question you raised of having a representative of the States Relations Service on the Executive Committee of the proposed National Federation of Farm Bureau Associations. I am enclosing copy of my reply to him. Will you please return these letters for our files here?

I assumed a little in saying that you had assurance that five states would send delegates, but I sought to give the impression that we were working on a coming proposition.

I want to congratulate you upon the fine Annual Meeting which you had. I shall write Barlow a few suggestions in regard to it, based on my observations at other Annual Meetings that I have attended this year.

I went home on the car with Mrs. Armstrong and she agreed to a joint meeting of your Committees sometime in January. As I said, I wish you would call such a joint meeting. I would like to attend it and see if we cannot get the women's work down to a sound financial basis.

Please do not hesitate to call upon me for any service I may be able to render in connection with the National Federation. It is the biggest agricultural movement that I see under way at the present time.

Very truly yours,

*H E Babcock*

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EX-OFFICIO, M. C. BURRITT

ACTING SECRETARY  
H. E. BABCOCK

**Ithaca, N. Y.**

Springfield Center, 12-7-18

H. E. BABCOCK, Sec'y.,  
Federation Farm Bureaus,  
Ithaca, N. Y.

MY DEAR MR. BABCOCK:

I have your letter under date of the 5th inst. in relation to the National Federation and note contents. I take it this is the letter to which you referred at Oneonta. If not I have not received that letter.

I believe that you are entirely correct as to your belief that a representative from the States Relation Service be on the Executive Committee of the National Organization.

I do not think you assumed too much in your statement to Smith in regards attendance at Conference. Of course the majority of my replies state the matter will be referred to annual meeting of State Federation. However in nearly every letter some comment is made which I regard as favorable. I herewith submit report as to replies to date.

State  
Connecticut  
Maine  
Pennsylvania

Reply  
Referred to Annual meeting  
" " "  
Names delegates

Rhode Island  
Ohio  
New Jersey  
New Hampshire  
Massachusetts  
Vermont  
Delaware  
Missouri

No reply as yet  
Referred to Annual Meeting  
No reply as yet  
Referred to annual Meeting  
" " "  
No reply as yet  
Will send three delegates  
Referred to Annual Meeting

You note that to date there are only three letters to which I have not received reply. As yet, I have not carried out intention to send second inquiry. When I returned from Oneonta I found more letters and thought it just as well to wait developments.

I would have you send me a copy of the program as soon as arranged.

I assure you that I will keep at work on the proposition and will keep you informed from time to time.

Very truly yours,



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EX-OFFICIO, M. C. BURRITT

ACTING SECRETARY  
H. E. BABCOCK

**Ithaca, N. Y.**

Springfield Center, January 8th, 1919

MR. H. E. BABCOCK, Secretary,  
New York State Federation Farm Bureaus,  
Ithaca, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have yours under date of the 6th inst. in which you inclose a copy of the proposed program for the annual meeting. I have looked the same over rather carefully and do not think I have any changes to suggest. Should think that same covers the ground and will work very satisfactory to all concerned.

Am also in receipt of letter under date of the 6th inclosing material relative to the Missouri Federation. I have had no correspondence with Mr. Brown. However have had some correspondence with Mr. Chester H. Gray the President of the Missouri Federation and in his last letter he assures me that Missouri will have a delegation at Ithaca on Feb. 12th and 13th.

Have yours of the 4th inst. at hand with the information in regard to the Iowa Federation inclosed. I am today drafting a letter to the President of the Iowa Federation, informing him as to our endeavors and inviting him to name delegates for Iowa.

Four States have actually notified me that they will send delegates. As the great majority of states in which there is a state organization hold their annual meetings this month I look for more acceptances next week. Will keep you informed from time to time.

I would suggest that so soon as it has been definitely decided as to entertainment of these delegates that you inform me as to same. I do not think that it is for N. Y. State to provide the entire entertainment of delegates while in Ithaca. I do however think that it would be very nice if we could have a house as I talked with you in Oneonta and that all delegates be roomed there.

For my own self I would like to know whether or not I will be expected to stay at the house as the time is drawing near when I would like to make reservation at the hotel.

Very truly yours,



*Chairman Organization Committee*

COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN, O. E. BRADFUTE  
XENIA, R.D. 5, OHIO  
CHESTER H. GRAY  
NEVADA, MO.  
E. B. CORNWALL  
MIDDLEBURY, VT.  
J. C. SAYLOR  
CISSNA PARK, ILL.  
FRANK M. SMITH, SECRETARY  
SPRINGFIELD CENTER, N.Y.

# ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

## AMERICAN FEDERATION OF FARM BUREAUS

STATES AT PRESENT  
CO-OPERATING  
DELAWARE  
ILLINOIS  
IOWA  
MASSACHUSETTS  
MICHIGAN  
MISSOURI  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
NEW YORK  
OHIO  
PENNSYLVANIA  
VERMONT  
WEST VIRGINIA

Springfield Center, N. Y.  
June 27th, 1919

PROF. H. E. BABCOCK, Secretary,  
N. Y. State Federation Farm Bureaus,  
Ithaca, N. Y.

MY DEAR SIR:

I am inclosing herewith a list of State Organization officers so far as revealed by my files. I am endeavoring to make this more complete and perhaps will have a more perfect one for you in the near future. Thought perhaps you would like it in your files.

Very truly yours,



## ARIZONA

Pres. J. C. Norton, Room 201-202, Fleming Block, Phoenix, Arizona.

## CONNECTICUT

"In a small state like this where the presidents and officers of the Farm Bureau can meet informally four or five times a year on a few days notice, we have not found the formal state association necessary up to the present time."

J. G. Davis, Co. Agent Leader.

## CALIFORNIA

No organization. Organization committee appointed of which Sheridan W. Baker, Santa Rosa, Cali. is chairman.

## COLORADO

Pres. W. G. Jamison, La Veta, Colo.

Vice-Pres., Frank Lamb, Canon City, Colo.

Sec-Tres., E. J. Leonard, Ft. Morgan, Colo.

## DELAWARE

No Organization.

## IOWA

Pres. J. H. Howard, Clemens, Iowa.

Vice-Pres., N. O. Keen, Le Grand, Iowa.

Sec. Merritt Greene, Jr., Marshalltown, Iowa.

Treas., C. E. Carney, Albion, Iowa.

## INDIANA

Frank J. Goodwine, Ch. Organization Committee, West Lebanon, Ind.

## IDAHO

Pres. John C. Lundy, Rupert, Idaho.

## ILLINOIS

## KANSAS

No organization. Have list County Presidents.

## MONTANA

Pres. John W. Davis, Bole, Mont.

Sec. F. S. Cooley, Bozeman, Mont.

## MISSOURI

Pres., Chester H. Gray, Nevada, Mo.

Vice-Pres., Mrs. Carrie Adams Jones, Chillicothe, Mo.

Sec-Tres., R. W. Brown, Carrollton, Mo.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Pres., Evan S. Richardson, Millis, Mass.

## **MAINE**

Organizing.

## **MICHIGAN**

Pres. Roland Morrill, Benton Harbor, Mich.  
Sec. C. A. Bingham, Birmingham, Mich.

## **MINNESOTA**

No organization.

## **NEW MEXICO**

No organization.

## **NEBRASKA**

Prof. F. C. Crocker, Filley, Neb.  
Sec. C. W. Pugsley, Lincoln, Neb.

## **NEW JERSEY**

No organization.

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

No organization.

## **NEVADA**

## **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Pres. Geo. M. Putman, Merrimac, N. H.  
Sec-Tres., Geo. A. Hill, Concord, R.D. # 2, N. H.

## **OREGON**

No organization. Have list Co. Pres.

## **OHIO**

O. E. Bradfute, Xenia, Ohio.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

No organization.

## **RHODE ISLAND**

No organization.

## **NEW YORK**

Pres. S. L. Strivings, Castile, N. Y.  
Sec. H. E. Babcock, Ithaca, N. Y.

## **UTAH**

Pres. D. D. McKay, Huntsville, Utah.  
Sec. Lee R. Taylor, Payson, Utah.

## **WISCONSIN**

No organization. Have list Breeders Club Officers.

## **WASHINGTON**

No organization.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Pres. H. C. Cobb, Doland, S. D.

## **WYOMING**

No Organization.

## **VERMONT**

Pres. E. B. Cornwall, Middlebury, Vt.

Tres. E. A. Ferguson, Bristol, Vt.

Sec. Elmer Wright, Weybridge, Vt.

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

Pres. J. B. McLaughlin, Strange Creek, W. Va.

## **VIRGINIA**

No organization.

## **PROGRAM**

### **ORGANIZATION MEETING**

### **AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

### **HOTEL LA SALLE, CHICAGO, ILL.**

**Wednesday 10 A.M. Nov. 12th**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bradfute of Organization Committee

Opening remarks by Chairman Bradfute

Report Organization Committee; Frank M. Smith, Secretary Temporary Organization

Address of welcome by Harvey J. Sconce of Illinois

Response by S. L. Strivings of New York and J. R. Howard of Iowa

Adjournment for Lunch:

### **WEDNESDAY, 2 P.M.**

Reading and consideration of constitution suggested by Organization Committee

Appointment of committee

### **THURSDAY 10 A.M. Nov. 13th**

Report of committee

Election of officers

Adjournment

## American Farm Bureau Federation

### GUARANTEE FUND

We recommend the establishment of a guarantee fund to assure ample finances to carry the organization through the first three years, and the scale of dues recommended in the tentative constitution is based on the adoption of guarantee fund plan proposed herewith.

This guarantee fund shall be pledged as follows: Each State Farm Bureau Federation shall furnish to the treasurer of the American Farm Bureau Federation within sixty (60) days from the adoption of the national constitution, signed pledges to the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300) a year for three (3) years, for each county farm bureau affiliated with such state federation. The pledges may be used by the national treasurer, upon authorization of the Executive Committee, as collateral to borrow such money as may be needed to conduct the business of the organization until such time as the regular dues may become sufficient for this purpose. If necessary, the treasurer, upon authorization of the Executive Committee, may call for the payment for the full amount of these pledges, or any portion thereof. It shall be the policy of the American Farm Bureau Federation to pay back any money collected on these pledges at such future time as it may be financially able to do so.

Suggested by Organization Committee.

BRADFUTE  
CORNWALL  
GRAY  
SAYLOR  
SMITH

A Publication of the  
New York State College of Agriculture,  
a unit of the State University of New York,  
at Cornell University

December 1957



Cooperative Extension Service, New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University and the U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. In furtherance of Acts of Congress May 8, June 30, 1914. M. C. Bond, Director of Extension, Ithaca, New York.